

Our Editorial Staff.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK.

So many requests have been made for a portrait of the Editor of the NURSING RECORD, that Mrs. Fenwick has at last consented to comply with this wish of the readers of her journal. It has been thought that the present time is a fitting opportunity to do so, when the Editor has just completed so successful a professional organization as that of the popular Nursing Exhibition.

Mrs. Fenwick showed very early a disposition for Hospital life, and at a time when most girls are thinking of first balls and parties she joined the then small number of pioneer lady Nurses at the Children's Hospital, Nottingham. After this she entered the Royal Infirmary, Manchester; and then was a Sister at the London Hospital for two years, a post which she left to take the position of Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

Her work there is too well-known to need dwelling upon here. It was a great satisfaction to her colleagues to see that her marriage did not deprive the Nursing profession of her interest in its work. For

in 1887, Mrs. Fenwick, who had long been impressed with the danger to the nursing profession of being organised by unprofessional persons, first formulated her scheme for the foundation of the Royal British Nurses' Association—the first meetings consisting of some of the London Matrons—Miss Stewart among the number—being convened by her at 20, Upper Wimpole Street.

By dint of perseverance and hard work, through five years, the Royal Charter was won in 1893, and thus the important step of organising Nurses into a definite

and professional body was accomplished. In this year the Helena gold medal was enthusiastically awarded to Mrs. Fenwick by the Royal British Nurses' Association as a mark of their estimation of her work. At the Gordon House Home Hospital, Mrs. Fenwick put into practice her theory that sick people could have the scientific nursing of the best Hospitals combined with the refinements and luxuries of a well-ordered home; and it is gratifying to her to find that a higher standard of nursing has since then been introduced generally into Home Hospitals. Mrs.

Fenwick was invited in 1893, by the Royal Commission, to organise the Nursing department of the British Section of the World's Fair at Chicago, and this department received the utmost commendation for excellence from the nursing and medical experts of all nationalities who visited the great Exhibition. Mrs. Fenwick takes the keenest interest in the Matrons' Council, which she feels is one of the most important ways in which the Matrons can combine for the best interests of all branches of the Nursing profession. This Council promises in the future to be a powerful lever in doing away with what Mr. Sydney Holland calls "Matrons' Chronic," by inspiring the leaders of the Nursing profession with a sense



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of their responsibility towards Nurses as a body, who naturally look to them for guidance, sympathy and assistance.

As Hon. Superintendent and founder of the Registered Nurses' Society, Mrs. Fenwick has laboured strenuously in support of the principles of co-operation and her desire that the rewards for their toil should be obtained by Nurses. As Editor of the RECORD, too, she has always aimed at very high ideals of duty, and tried to advance the honour and dignity of the profession she has so much at heart,

A. K.

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