

MISS ANNIE COOPER has been appointed Nurse-Matron of the Fever Hospital, Thorp, Easington.

ASSISTANT MATRON.

MISS H. ELLIOTT has been appointed Assistant Matron at the Brentford Union Infirmary, Isleworth. Miss Elliott was trained at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, and has held the position of Sister at the Rotherham General Hospital, and the Birmingham General Hospital.

SISTERS.

MISS HELEN BATCHELOR has been appointed Sister to the Government Civil Hospital, Hong Kong. She was trained at the London Hospital from 1894-97, and also at the Clapham Maternity Hospital, after which she obtained the certificate of the London Obstetrical Society. She has also held the position of Superintendent of St. John's Hospital, Winchester, and has performed the duties as temporary Matron at the Herne Bay Convalescent Home.

MISS PARKER, who was trained at the Wareford Hospital, Leamington, has been appointed Sister at the Brentford Union Infirmary, Isleworth, in which institution she has been a nurse for the last two years.

SUPERINTENDENT NURSE.

MISS MEACHAM has been appointed Working Superintendent Nurse of the South Stoneham Union Workhouse, West End, near Southampton. Miss Meacham holds the three years' certificate of the Sunderland Workhouse Infirmary, and also the certificate of the London Obstetrical Society. Miss Meacham has, since completing her training, acted as Charge Nurse at the Town's Hospital, Glasgow, and has also been engaged in private nursing.

NURSES.

MISS E. M. BOUTELL has been appointed Surgical Nurse of the Great Western Railway Hospital for Accidents, Swindon. Miss Boutell received her training at the Infirmary, St. John's Hill, London, S.W.

MISS C. S. WHITE has been appointed Charge Nurse at the Royal Infirmary, Windsor. Miss White received her training at the Durham County Hospital, and has also acted as Staff Nurse at the Kendal Memorial Hospital.

MISS ALICE FLETCHER, Miss Elizabeth Jackson, and Miss Lilla Snow, have been appointed Charge Nurses at the Mogden Isolation Hospital, Isleworth, Middlesex. Miss Fletcher received three years' training at the Halifax Infirmary; Miss Jackson was trained for three years at the Birmingham Infirmary, and has also acted as Charge Nurse at the Homerton Fever Hospital; and Miss Snow was trained for three years at St. George's Infirmary, Hatfield Square, and has, since completing her training, been Charge Nurse at Croydon Borough Hospital.

## The Nursing Conference.



MISS H. POOLE.

As a wish has been expressed by members of the Matrons' Council, who were unavoidably absent from the Conference, that the papers should appear in full, we have, this week, found space for Miss Poole's most valuable Paper, and the discussion it aroused. We shall, therefore, give prominence to one paper weekly in future issues.

### SPECIALISM IN NURSING.

By Miss H. Poole, Matron of the East Lancashire Infirmary, Blackburn.

IN the history of every profession, there has always come a time when the demands made on the members of it have so increased, that it has become necessary for individuals to take up one branch of it, and devote their whole attention to the special study of the subjects connected with it; because as research deepened, and experience increased, it was plainly impossible for any one individual to make himself acquainted equally well with all branches. In the medical profession, if we go back to ancient times, we find that the "medicine man" depended solely on drugs and charms for his healing powers, that as anatomy of the human body was either forbidden or unknown, surgery, even of the most elementary kind, was not included among the qualifications required of the physician. Later, we find a very elementary form practised, not by the physician, but by the barbers; and it has been the triumphant work of the last hundred years to advance the knowledge of the form and functions of the various portions of the human body to such an extent that surgery, having first become almost a separate science from that of medicine, is now again being sub-divided into various branches, and we have specialists who devote themselves entirely to either optic surgery, dental surgery, cranial surgery, abdominal surgery, etc., because they find it impossible to keep pace with advancing science in all its branches. The same process has been going on in the Nursing Profession only much more rapidly even than in the Medical, and to us it seems almost incredible that "thirty years ago it was with difficulty that nurses could be found among the staffs of great London hospitals possessing the very moderate qualifications then required to fit them for being placed in charge of wards." Now for every hospital appointment the applications are so numerous as to make it a matter of difficulty to choose between the candidates; competition has

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