

## The Speakers on Nursing.

### MISS LUCY WALKER.

THE place—Stafford House—the time about 11.30 p.m., before, amongst the many people who responded to the hospitable invitation of the Duchess of Sutherland on Monday last, I discovered Miss Lucy Walker, the capable and progressive Matron of the Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia. Time was short, so I plunged into business right away. Miss Walker was responsive and concise, and in the few moments at my disposal I learnt much.

"I graduated," said Miss Walker, "at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, in 1891, and went straight to Philadelphia, where I was Matron of a Convalescent Hospital for a few months, and then in 1892 I was appointed Matron of the Presbyterian Hospital there. In 1895 I obtained the Matronship of the Pennsylvania Hospital, where I am still. It is the oldest hospital in America, and interesting, as it really has a history. Benjamin Franklin was its first Secretary, and the English soldiers used it at the time of the American War of Independence. How many beds? 350. It really *is* a nice hospital. As to training, one of the first things I did was to get the term of training lengthened from two to three years. The pupils have lectures throughout their training, a different lecturer each

year, rather an unusual arrangement. The first year the lectures are on Anatomy, Physiology, and Hygiene, the second on Surgical and the third on Medical Nursing, then they have instruction also in massage and cookery." "And midwifery?" I enquire. "No, that is about the only thing we do not teach them, but the Sloane Maternity in New York takes only graduate nurses as pupils, and many of our nurses obtain their midwifery training

there. We had a new experience last year, during the war we had 300 soldiers from Puerto Rico. Eighty were brought in at once as the first batch, and they were all in bed in 50 minutes after the first came in at the door, and all were washed within an hour and a half.

"As to Associations, of course I belong to everything. The American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses, The Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, The National Associated Alumnæ of the United States and Canada. I am as progressive as it is possible to be." I can well believe it,

and as I take leave of Miss Walker, I wonder what it is in America which inspires Superintendents with so high a sense of their public duty. Partly, perhaps, it is that the system of training is different to our own, and nurses are taught during their pupil days that their profession demands something of them besides the primary duty of the care of the sick.

M.B.



MISS LUCY WALKER.

Member of the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses.

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