

Matrons in Council.

MISS MARY GARDNER.

The member of the Matrons' Council whose portrait we have pleasure in publishing this week is Miss Mary Gardner, Matron of the Birmingham and Midland Sanatorium, Blackwell, who recently, at the request of the President, Miss Isla Stewart, who was unable to attend, acted as the delegate of the Matrons' Council at the Women's Congress at Brighton. The remarks which she then made as to the desirability of a somewhat severe curriculum of hospital training for nurses, in order that the weakly and ineffective might be weeded out during the application of the test, aroused a warm discussion. Mrs. Sheldon Amos was of opinion that the "pro" should at first have a good deal of consideration, and that the hospital authorities should make it easy for her to adapt herself to the new conditions.

There is something to be said for both points of view, and the question is one which Matrons in Council might well discuss. We have received an excellent paper on the subject from Miss Gardner, which will appear in our next issue, and which raises several points for discussion. On one point we are all agreed, namely, that the probationer of the present day cannot and does not get through the same amount of work as was performed by her predecessors ten and twenty years ago. It is true an indefensible amount of work was often expected of nurses in those days, but they got through it cheerfully, happily, and capably. What is the reason why with lessened duties, the present day nurse requires so much bolstering in order to get through her training? Are we to believe that the physique of the race is deteriorating, or has the difference in the kind of applicant anything to do with the lack of staying power now exhibited? In the last decade when work was arduous, and comforts few, only picked women entered our nurse training schools. Now that the conditions are so attractive as to appeal to the average woman, the health of the present day nurse is apparently inferior to that of her predecessor, or else her will power does not compel the triumph of mind over matter. The subject is an interesting one from many points of view, and we are sure that readers of the RECORD will welcome an article upon it from Miss Gardner's able pen.

Miss Gardner began her nursing career at the Crumpsall Infirmary, of which institution she holds the certi-

tificate, and afterwards worked as nurse in the Mildmay Hospital, and the Birmingham General Hospital. She has also held the positions of Night Sister at the Cardiff Infirmary, Matron at the Sanatorium for Women, Llandudno; Deputy Matron at the Isolation Hospital, Nottingham; Matron of the City Isolation Hospital, Norwich; and Matron of the Birmingham and Midland Sanatorium, Blackwell, all of which positions she has filled with zeal and ability. She also possesses a gift which is somewhat rare in the nursing profession, a talented pen, which she uses effectively in the service of her profession. Miss Gardner is also an ardent supporter of the enfranchisement of women whose services to the State, if they were allowed to exercise the vote, would she believes be of great value to the community. In this view she has the support of the most thoughtful members of her profession.



MISS MARY GARDNER,
*Matron, Birmingham and Midland Sanatorium ;
Member of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain
and Ireland.*

BUFFALO DELEGATE FUND.

At the last meeting of the Executive Committee of the Matrons' Council the organization of the Subcommittee appointed to deal with the financial and other arrangements for delegates to the International Congress of Nurses at Buffalo next year was discussed. The Hon. Secretary announced that Mrs. Howard Marsh, representing the League of St. Bartholomew's nurses, and Miss Julia Hurlston, representing the Registered Nurses' Society, had been deputed by these Societies to act upon the Subcommittee. Mrs. G. F. Wates, the late Matron of the Lewisham Infirmary, who was present, consented to act as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the Fund, and the Committee hopes to get to work in earnest after Christmas.

A Scotch lady, who wishes to remain anonymous, has sent £2 2s. towards the Buffalo Delegate Fund, organized by the Matrons' Council, having observed with pleasure the action of the League of St. Bartholomew's Nurses, as reported in our last issue. We hope this may prove the nucleus of the £60 with which to send a representative Nursing Delegate from Scotland. The matter could speedily be arranged if some of the leading Scotch Matrons co-operate for the purpose. Nowhere is good nursing making more steady progress than in Scotland. For the reason that the "material" of which Scotch nurses are composed, mentally and physically, is the best in the world. During the years that we acted as Matron at St. Bartholomew's Hospital we formed a high estimate of the nursing qualities possessed by Scotchwomen.

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