

### Some New Members of the Matrons' Council.

#### MISS A. K. GOUGH.

Miss A. K. GOUGH, Matron of the Dawlish Infirmary and recently elected a member of the Matrons' Council, has kindly furnished us with the following details of her nursing career:—

"On January 27th, 1893, I entered the Bristol Royal Infirmary as a probationer. It has since struck me as a curious fact that this was absolutely the first time I had ever crossed the threshold of a hospital. I suppose few girls have entered upon a profession knowing so little what they were about to undertake.

My first weeks were spent in a female surgical ward, and it has been in such work and, above all, the children's ward, that my happiest nursing days have been spent.

On completing my training, I was placed on the private staff, and among these (my patients at that time) I number some of my greatest friends. About this time our Matron, Miss Greenhough Smith, advised me to obtain the L.O.S. diploma, and I therefore worked on the midwifery district connected with the Institution, and in due time passed the examination and received the certificate.

I also obtained much good experience as temporary Sister in the different wards of my training school.

When Miss Smith resigned her post as Matron at the Bristol Royal Infirmary, I and many others of her staff resolved to seek work further afield.

I was then appointed Matron of the East Molesey and Hampton Court Cottage Hospital.

On looking back, I often laugh to myself when I remember how like a "fish out of water" I felt in those first days; how I missed the rules and regulations of a big ward; what difficulty I had in inducing the general servant to believe her sphere was in the kitchen, and not to sit in the Matron's sitting-room, and regale her with the gossip of the day.

My next post was as Matron of the Queen Victoria Nursing Home at Freshford, near Bath,

and here I also superintended the district nursing.

In January of this year I obtained my present post. The Infirmary is charmingly situated, most of the wards commanding a sea-view. Our garden is an equal pleasure to convalescents and staff. At present we are all busy working for a 'Fete,' to be held next month, of which I shall hope to send a short account to the NURSING RECORD."

#### MISS M. DEANE.

Miss M. Deane, Matron of the East Suffolk Hospital, Ipswich, was trained at the Manchester Royal Infirmary, and afterwards worked for nine months at the London Hospital as Night Nurse, after which she held the position of Charge Nurse at the Royal Hospital, Richmond, Surrey,

for three years. She then began work at the East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital, as Charge Nurse, for three years, of the children's wing, after which she had charge of the men's surgical and accident ward, with the operating theatre, for seven years, when she was placed in charge of the women's surgical ward, still with charge of the theatre. In December last she was appointed Matron of the same institution, a post which it is evident she is exceptionally well qualified to hold.

#### MISS M. DE H. SPITTAL.

Miss M. de H. Spittal,  
Matron of the Childrens'

Hospital, Nottingham, and daughter of the late Rev. John Spittal, of Havonstreet, near Ryde, received her children's training at the Hospital in which she is now Matron, during the years 1887 to 1892. She then went to the Leicester Infirmary for adult training, where she was ultimately promoted to the position of Sister of the women's surgical and eye ward, a post which she held until March, 1898, when she was placed in charge of the theatre and men's and women's operation wards. In March, 1899, she was appointed Matron of the Children's Hospital, Nottingham, an institution which we ever hold in affectionate regard, as the one in which we began our nursing career, and where we spent many happy days.



MISS A. K. GOUGH,  
*Matron of the Dawlish Infirmary.*

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)