

## Some New Members of the Matrons' Council.

### MISS E. MARGARET FOX.

Miss E. Margaret Fox, whose portrait appears on this page, began her nursing career in 1889 as a Probationer at the Deaconesses' Institution and Training Hospital at Tottenham. The work was very arduous, and at the end of twelve months she had an attack of typhoid fever which nearly cost her her life; happily, however, she recovered, and during the four years she was connected with the Institution she gained a varied experience in the wards and in private nursing, and also, during part of the time as a Sister in the South Dublin Union, and afterwards for a year in the Sunderland Infirmary.

At that time no certificate of training was given at the Deaconesses' Institution, and Miss Fox, as she tells us, was beginning to recognise the value of the "all-important parchment," as a means to obtaining a good nursing post, in October, 1893, therefore, she entered, Guy's Hospital as a probationer.

Here again Miss Fox tells us she found the work very hard, "probably," she adds, "my previous drilling had toughened me, for I lived through those tiring days and nights, and stayed at Guy's long enough to secure the three years' first-class certificate, and afterwards the silver Butterworth medal for five years' service.

In 1897 Miss Fox was one of the nurses selected to work in Greece in the Græco-Turkish war, in connection with the *Daily Chronicle* National Fund for the Greek Wounded, the hospital authorities at Guy's giving her leave of absence for this purpose, and promising her a post on her return. Of this

work she writes: "The varied experiences of that most interesting time remain indelibly fixed on my memory, and I shall always feel glad I was allowed to be a sharer in that work, and proud of the Greek medal and certificate which I and my fellow nurses afterwards received." This medal was given by Olga, Queen of the Hellenes, to the English nurses who worked through the campaign.

On her return to England Miss Fox was appointed Sister at Guy's Hospital, where she remained until 1899.

The post of Nursing Superintendent at the Tottenham Hospital then fell vacant, and she applied for and obtained it, being given entire charge six months later.

"Things have changed," writes Miss Fox, since 1889, at the hospital. Its founder, the venerable Dr. Laserson, has long since gone to his rest. The quaint, old-world costume of the nursing staff has given place to a smarter, more up-to-date uniform. A three years' certificate has now to be worked for, and many lectures must be attended and examinations passed.

So the work of progress goes on. Indeed, the day seems in sight when in every recognized nurse training school probationers must go through a three years' course of instruction and pass a satisfactory examination be-

fore obtaining their certificates. The steady accession of superintendents to the ranks of the Matrons' Council is proof of the increasing recognition of this standard on the part of heads of training schools, and of their desire for a uniform system of education, examination, certification and State Registration for nurses. The Matrons' Council has afforded a happy meeting ground where Matrons may discuss the best means of attaining this most desirable object, and the members have found its quarterly meetings both stimulating and refreshing.



MISS E. MARGARET FOX.

*Matron of the Tottenham Hospital; Member of the  
Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland.*

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