

Western Hospital, Haverstock Hill. As a Member of the Army Nursing Service Reserve she was deputed to duty at the Herbert Hospital, Woolwich, in 1899; and afterwards sent out to South Africa. She retired from the A.N.S.R. in 1901 for a time, and returned to South Africa in January, 1902. She is a Member of the League of St. Bartholomew's Nurses.

LADY SUPERINTENDENT.

Miss Evelyn Torbin has been appointed Lady Superintendent of the Hospital for Women, Liverpool. She was trained at Charing Cross Hospital, where she also held the position of Sister in a female medical ward for three years and a half.

HOME SISTER.

Miss L. A. Baskett has been appointed Home Sister at the Royal Infirmary, Bristol. She was trained at King's College Hospital, where she subsequently was placed in charge of the ophthalmic wards. She has also held the position of Night Sister at the Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, City Road, and has had some experience of private nursing.

SISTER.

Miss Martha Foster has been appointed Sister at the Union Infirmary, Stapleton. She was trained at the Fir Vale Infirmary, Sheffield, and subsequently held the position of Superintendent Nurse at the Union Infirmary, Easington, and of Sister at the Union Infirmary, Wakefield. She holds the certificate of the London Obstetrical Society.

HEAD NURSE.

Miss Janet Scott has been appointed Head Nurse and Deputy Matron at the Roxburgh District Asylum, Melrose, N.B. She received her training at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow.

Transactions of the International Nurses' Congress.

Our readers will be glad to know that the Transactions of the International Congress of Nurses, in a linen-bound volume, are now ready. The price is 1 dol. 20 cents, or 5s. in English money. Orders may be sent to Miss Bainfield, Polyclinic Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa., U.S.A. Every trained nurse should certainly secure a copy of the Transactions, which form a very interesting book, as well as a valuable work of reference.

The Question of State Registration.

The following able letter appeared in the *Scotsman* on August 29th:—

STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

13, Randolph Crescent, Edinburgh,
August 28th, 1902.

SIR,—The question of the efficient nursing of the sick is a national one, deeply affecting the health of every section of the community. Its educational as apart from its philanthropic side is at present arousing some attention, owing in part to the generous and tactful recognition by His Majesty the King of the service rendered to him by highly-skilled nurses during his recent illness.

Great advances have been made in medical and surgical science, especially during the last ten or twelve years, and it is of public importance to inquire whether the majority of nurses are receiving such instruction as shall ensure that patients shall not lose any of the benefit of such advance through want of technical knowledge and training on the part of the nurse.

Statistics state that there are at present 80,000 women in the United Kingdom calling themselves trained nurses. Of this vast army the most highly trained, experienced, and cultured lady has precisely the same legal status as the young woman who spends a few months in a hospital in one capacity or another, and on coming out dons a nurse's uniform, and offers her services at good pay to some all-confiding member of the public, who discovers by painful experience that residence in a hospital and the possession of a uniform do not necessarily make a nurse. The country is flooded with this latter class, and it is they who are responsible for the unreasonable outcry in magazines and elsewhere against trained nurses *en bloc*. This is not to be wondered at, as the mischief they may do is incalculable, and may exceed that caused by an ignorant, unregistered plumber. Between the visits of a doctor, the nurse is often left in sole charge of a patient whose life may depend on her fitness for her work. How are the public and responsible nurses to be protected? The only possible way is to organise nursing into an honoured profession by the appointment of a central authority corresponding to the General Medical Council, whose duty it would be to define a minimum curriculum of training for nurses, to be tested by examination, and to enforce their reasonable discipline and control. About three months ago a society was formed in London having for its object the obtaining by Act of Parliament a Bill providing for the legal registration of trained nurses. Already it has attracted a nucleus of close on five hundred nurse members, all of whom pay a small annual subscription, and many well-known lay men and women are giving it their support as vice-presidents and honorary members. The interest taken by nurses themselves in the movement is a hopeful augury for its success. At the International Congress of Nursing held last year at Buffalo, U.S.A., 500 nurse delegates voted unanimously in favour of State registration, and in almost every State in America the subject is under consideration. The idea is not new. State registration is an accomplished fact in New Zealand and Cape Colony,

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