

Nurses of Note.

MISS HELEN L. PEARSE.

The new Matron of the Great Northern Hospital, Holloway Road, N., Miss Helen L. Pearse, whose portrait we present on this page, has had a varied nursing experience, and is keenly interested in the question of nursing education, and in the organisation of her profession as a whole. She began her nursing career at the General (now the Royal) Hospital, Sheffield, where she trained for a Nursing Institution, in connection with which she nursed subsequently for two years.

years she was selected out of a large number of candidates as the Matron of the North Staffordshire Infirmary, Hartshill, a position which she held until her recent appointment as Matron of the Great Northern Central Hospital, a post to which she brings, in addition to a wide experience of practical nursing, keen enthusiasm, and an earnest desire to take her share in the good work of advancing the organisation of the nursing profession.

Miss Pearse is a member of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, and of the Executive Committee of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. In March of last year she was one of



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This experience was valuable to her, inasmuch as it proved to her the utter inadequacy of a one year's training to equip a nurse for subsequent work, and there is now no keener supporter of a minimum standard of three years' training than Miss Pearse. She relates how excessive was the strain on the nervous system of the care of private cases after so short a training, and the heart searching as to whether she had done all that could or ought to be done from the nursing standpoint.

The result was that as soon as Miss Pearse was free she entered the nursing school of St. Bartholomew's Hospital for a full course of training, at the conclusion of which she was appointed Assistant Matron at the Lambeth Infirmary, at the end of two

a deputation to the Public Health Committee of the House of Commons from the last named Society to "invite its consideration of the appointment of a Select Committee of the House of Commons to inquire into the whole nursing question."

Events move quickly in these days, and the Committee, as our readers know, has not only been appointed, but during two sessions has taken evidence, and has presented a Report to the House of Commons, stating that it is agreed as to the desirability of the registration of nurses by a central body appointed by the State.

The Great Northern Hospital, of which Miss Pearse is Matron, is situated in a populous neighbourhood, its frontage being on the Holloway Road. It serves the

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