

## Nurses of Note.

MRS. ALETRINO *née* VAN STOCKUM.

*President of the Dutch Nurses' Association.  
Hon. Vice-President of the International Council  
of Nurses.*

Miss E. J. van Stockum began her nursing career in 1893 in the Children's Hospital at Rotterdam. In 1895 she went to the Burger-ziekenhuis at Amsterdam. It was during her training that she first realised how incomplete the system of nursing education was, how many abuses called for reform, what an absolute want of solidarity there was among nurses. She felt that, as much in the interest of the patients, as in that of the nurses the latter's servile position towards the directors of the hospitals should change, that nurses should protest openly against the long working-hours, against so much rough work, and above all that trained nurses should be protected against the unfair competition of those who are badly trained, and who are even in some cases without training at all.

In 1896 she married Dr. Aletrino, who, equally with herself, was a warm champion of nurses' interests. They promptly floated a scheme whereby Dutch nurses would be united in one association. On the 30th May, 1900, the preliminary meeting took place. Nearly 30 nurses responded to the summons of Mrs. Aletrino and two of her colleagues. It was the aim of Mrs. Aletrino to rouse in the nurses a feeling of self-reliance and pride, to make them perceive, that they themselves, bound close together, had to make a stand for their own interests, that they should not leave that to others. She is particularly fitted for the task she has set herself, her great intellect, broad views, warm sympathy, her willingness to help, but especially the confidence she inspires

marks her out as a born leader and a good counsellor for all who come to her for consolation and help in their troubles. To this association, which numbers 700 members, having six sections, of which one is in the East Indies, Mrs. Aletrino has devoted all her time and strength, with her husband as an ever faithful coadjutor. She, first as Secretary, afterwards as President, he as Editor-in-Chief of the paper have organised a powerful, self-governing nurses' association. Together they have fought, in order to obtain better conditions, so that it may be possible for well-educated women to choose nursing as

a profession, without fearing to have their health, if not injured for good, perhaps seriously impaired after a few years' service. It is mainly owing to their intelligent leadership and immense working-power, that many abuses have disappeared, and that great questions, such as uniform training, preparatory training, State examination, etc., are being considered not only in the small nursing world, but in the wider one of the general public. We are confident that deeds will soon follow.

It is interesting to learn that latterly a nurse has become editor-in-chief of *Nosokomos*, nurses doing all the work for the paper themselves; however, Dr. Aletrino remains their faithful counsellor.



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*President Dutch Nurses' Association.*

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At the next meeting of the Poor Law Infirmary Matrons' Association in January, they propose to discuss the subject of "The Training of Nurses under the Poor Law," under several headings, such as—the length of theoretical teaching, examinations, whether it would be well to include extra subjects such as massage, midwifery, and sick and convalescent cooking in the course of training, or to treat them as post graduate subjects.

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