

among the middle classes for a moderate fee. The report, and several of the speakers, made emphatic reference to this latter feature, and pointed out that every effort was made to help people struggling to maintain independence and a respectable appearance before their neighbours, in spite of increasing sickness and infirmities, and decreasing income.

It is impossible to estimate what the sick poor in workhouse infirmary wards owe to the trained nurses who within the last quarter of a century, first here and there, and now in increasing numbers, have devoted themselves to the improvement of poor law nursing, as Matrons and heads of training schools in these institutions. One of these Matrons is Miss E. A. Gittins, Matron of the Union Infirmary, Beckett Street, Leeds, and a member of the Matrons' Council, whose portrait we have pleasure in publishing on this page. Miss Gittins was trained at the Birmingham Infirmary and at the end of three years was appointed Ward Sister, subsequently having charge of the Midwifery Department for one year, and then holding the appointments first of Home Sister, and then of Assistant Matron for two and a half years, a position she resigned when appointed to her present position of Matron of the Union Infirmary, Leeds, in 1902.



Miss E. A. GITTINS,  
Matron of the Union Infirmary, Leeds,  
Member of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland.

A meeting was held in Liverpool Town Hall last week in connection with the Jubilee Congress on District Nursing to take place in May. Mr. Archibald Williamson, M.P., who was in the chair, mentioned that the list of individual associations to whom they proposed to send invitations to attend the Congress contained the names of some 1,500 different associations.

It was desired to bring together all sections of those connected with district nursing in any of its varied branches.

An Executive Committee was appointed as follows:—Mr. Archd. Williamson (Chairman), Sir Thomas Hughes (Deputy-Chairman), H. Sutton Timmis, and L. D. Holt (honorary secretaries), J. C. M. Jacobs and F. W. Rathbone (Honorary Treasurers), Messrs. John Henderson, John Lea, E. C. Sanders, and H. R. Rathbone.

We regret to notice that on this Executive Committee to deal with district nursing, so exclusively woman's work, no woman, either professional or otherwise, is included. We hope the extraordinary omission will be rectified at an early date. This monopolization by men, however well meaning, of the management of any Congress dealing with valuable national work entirely performed by women, is a most undesirable assumption of authority on a question on which they are not, and cannot be, experts. Let us see associated with these gentlemen some experienced Superintendents of Queen's Nurses and other women with practical experience, and that without delay.

Mrs. Eliot Levy, Mrs. Brunner, Mrs. John Smith, Mrs. Collins Odgers, Miss P. D. Langton, Miss Meade-King, Miss Withers, Miss Newton, Miss Ada Smith, and Miss M. Hughes, were elected to form a Hospitality Committee.

Miss M. E. Sparshott, Lady Superintendent of the Manchester Royal Infirmary, has recently given nurses every facility to see the splendid new infirmary, now that it is in fair working order. Her kind invitation was greatly appreciated.

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