

Nurses of Note.

MISS LOGAN, OF PERTH ROYAL INFIRMARY.

BY ONE OF HER NURSES.

The retiral of Miss Mary Logan from Perth Infirmary will remove from active service one of the most interesting personages in the Scottish nursing profession.

Entering the old Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh while Miss Barclay was Matron, Miss Logan passed through her training—then not a three years' one—and became Staff Nurse of Lord—then Professor—Lister's female wards. The famous old-time nurse, Mrs. Porter, was in charge of the male wards, and for her Miss Logan had a warm regard.

After five and a half years in Edinburgh, Miss Logan was appointed to Perth Infirmary in 1878. Since then many changes have taken place. Miss Logan herself has always been changing, for although a woman of the most steadfast character she could never settle down in a groove. To call Miss Logan saintly would be to do her a grave wrong, for such women are too far removed above frail humanity to make successful hospital Matrons. Few ever saw her angry, but that was because few cared to incur her displeasure. The Matron of Perth Infirmary is just a cultured, very human lady, full of sympathy with the difficulties, failings, happiness, and sorrows of others.

Many of her nurses wished to see her in a wider sphere where her talents would have met with full scope; but Miss Logan had no ambition for herself. The good name and efficiency of the hospital over which she has for so long presided have been to her a high reward.

Those who sought to do the right—whatever mistaken ways they might employ—always found in Miss Logan a sympathetic friend; but those who did not seek to uphold the honour of the profession and womanhood soon became aware that the "pretty hands" celebrated in verse by the late Mr. Walter Henley, could wield an iron rod.

The sick will miss the dignified and gentle presence they have respected and regarded with affection for many years. Doctors have changed, and nurses have changed, but the sick who entered Perth Infirmary always knew that there they would see Miss Logan.

Her nurses bless her, and wish her peace and happiness in her retirement.

There are not a few Matrons and nurses who, like Miss Logan, are content to give their services without stint to the one institution to which they have devoted their lives. They are of the best type, and they have their reward.

The Queen of the City.

It was a happy chance that made Sir George Wyatt Truscott Lord Mayor of London during the present year, for it would scarcely be possible to find a Lady Mayoress better qualified to take the lead in the initial work of the London Committee of the Nursing Service of the Territorial Force. Not only is Lady Truscott interested in nursing from a practical standpoint, for, as the eldest daughter in a family of eight, and having sons and daughters of her own, she has taken her share in home nursing, but, she is possessed by a high sense of duty and patriotism. Duty which inspires her to hold herself accountable for the way in which she spends her time, to believe that every moment should be usefully filled, and to set her face against an idle afternoon socially when there is so much that needs to be done to further the welfare of the community; and patriotism, which, when Colonel Hyslop on behalf of the Territorial Force Association for the County of London, sought her assistance, as Lady Mayoress, in the formation of its Nursing Service, led her to throw herself wholeheartedly into a scheme of such national importance, and to gather together an influential Committee at the Mansion House to help her to carry it out. With far-sighted wisdom also she has secured for the Territorial Nursing Service the interest of Lady Knill and Lady Strong, who will probably be her immediate successors at the Mansion House, so that the continuity of the work of the Committee will be assured.

"We are only at the Mansion House for one year, you know," said Lady Truscott, "and that is so soon gone." But it is long enough for a Lady Mayoress with Lady Truscott's energy, strong conviction, and force of conscience, which is the greatest force in the world, to inspire many others with her belief that they should employ their time for the benefit of their country rather than in personal amusement.

It may be imagined that the Mansion House with its ceaseless activities, with the constant claims upon its hospitality and generosity, in support of useful work for the nation, and indeed for the world, is a congenial sphere for Lady Truscott, and she speaks of it as "a liberal education." She explains that it has no politics, but that the claims of citizens of the City of London of all shades of creeds and politics receive equal consideration. Thus, on Hospital Sunday the Lord Mayor will support its objects by going in State to St. Paul's Cathedral, and Westminster Abbey, besides at-

previous page

next page