

Nurses of Note.

MISS HESTER MACLEAN, R.N.

We have great pleasure in presenting to our readers the portrait of Miss Hester Maclean, Deputy Registrar of Nurses and Midwives, and Assistant Inspector of Hospitals in New Zealand. Miss Maclean entered the Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, in January, 1890, and after going through three years' training there, left to take up private nursing. Preferring hospital work, she applied for and obtained the Matronship of a small suburban hospital, St. George's, Sydney, which she had the pleasure of furnishing and starting. She remained there nearly four years, and then left to take the position of Sister-in-Charge of the Gynæcological Department of the Women's Hospital, Melbourne, being desirous of adding to her experience in surgical work. After a year of this work, she took charge of the District Nursing work in Melbourne, where she also remained for a year, but being requested to apply for the Matronship of a new hospital for women and children, the Queen Victoria Hospital, about to be opened in Melbourne, she did so, and was appointed

Matron. The hospital is staffed entirely by women doctors. When it was in full working order, Miss Maclean went to take charge of the Women's Hospital, Melbourne, in 1900. As there had not been a trained Matron before and the Sisters in charge of the different departments had been without any professional supervision, the task was rather a difficult one. She remained here for four years, gaining very valuable experience, but at the end of that time felt she needed a long change and rest and decided to take a trip to England. She

wished also to enter for the examination of the London Obstetrical Society, and obtain a certificate in midwifery, in which branch of nursing she had gained great experience at the Women's Hospital.

While at this hospital the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association was formed, and she became a member, and afterwards was one of the first Council of the Victorian Association which it was first proposed should be a branch of the A.T.N.A., but was afterwards formed as a separate society. Miss Maclean spent fourteen months away from Australia, mostly in London, where she greatly enjoyed seeing something of the great hospitals and training schools. Also in Edinburgh she visited the three chief hospitals.

In order to comply with the conditions of entrance to the London Obstetrical examination, she went to St. Margaret's District Home, where pupils were trained in midwifery by Mrs. Messenger and Miss Young, for three months. Miss Maclean says that of the many teachers she has heard lecturing to pupil nurses, she has never heard a better than Mrs. Messenger. After passing the L.O.S. she re-

gistered as a midwife under the Central Midwives' Board.

On her return to Sydney, she took the position of Matron of a large private Mental Hospital, but remained there only about six months. She was then asked by the Committee of the District Nursing Society in Sydney to take charge of the first Home established for the nurses and to organise the work on more settled and satisfactory lines, it having been carried on by each nurse independently in her own district, with no responsible Sister or Matron.



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