

## Nurses of Note.

### MISS A. CARSON-RAE.

*Secretary, Irish Nurses' Association.*

We have pleasure in publishing on this page the portrait of Miss A. Carson-Rae, the newly-appointed Secretary of the Irish Nurses' Association. By birth Miss Carson-Rae is Scotch, but as her mother was Irish she belongs also in part to the land of her adoption. She first became interested in nursing through belonging to the Samaritan Society of the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, as it was one of the duties of the members to visit a ward regularly and take an interest in the home affairs of the patients.

In the year 1888 Miss Carson-Rae entered the National Hospital for Paralysis and Epilepsy, Queen Square, Bloomsbury, for training, and remained there for one year; during this time she was grounded in elementary anatomy, and received instruction in massage and the use of electricity, which she subsequently found of great value. At the end of that time she was received at the Lady Augusta Stanley Training School, in connection with the Westminster Hospital, where she obtained three years' training in the wards, and afterwards had a year's experience of private nursing, leaving to take a Day Sister's post at the St. Marylebone Infirmary, Notting Hill, W. After holding this post for eighteen months, she was promoted to the position of Night Sister, which she also held for eighteen months, and has subsequently found the administrative experience thus gained most useful.

Miss Carson-Rae was then appointed Assistant Matron of the Cork Street Fever Hospital, Dublin, and on the resignation of the Lady Superintendent was invited by the Committee to succeed her, which she did, and remained there for thirteen years, resigning this position last December.

During her term of office many changes were made for the better. By affiliation with other hospitals, Miss Carson-Rae was able to organise a Training School for Nurses, and found the system work well. A new Nurses' Home was built, after which all the nurses were able to have a separate bedroom, a privilege which they greatly appreciated. For some years the hospital maintained a small private staff. It also had a Convalescent Home, about five

miles away, where the convalescent patients were sent to convalesce.

In 1902 the Committee of Public Health started a hospital for smallpox at the mouth of the Liffey, which was furnished and equipped by the authorities of the Cork Street Hospital, and was always staffed by it when necessary. The nurses in this way obtained valuable additional experience.

Miss Carson-Rae has always been a keen advocate of State Registration of Nurses, believing it to be the only means by which the nursing profession can obtain a proper status. She also desires to see technical colleges established for preliminary education, in which the education of girls desiring to enter the nursing profession can be carried on on lines

which would best fit them to enter it when they have attained the requisite age.

She takes much interest in the International movement amongst nurses, and attended the Paris International Conference in 1907, when there was a large contingent from Ireland. She was also present at the Congress in London last year, and acted as one of the Stewards of the Nursing Exhibition held at Caxton Hall in connection with the Congress. Her recognition of the importance of a professional journal for nurses is shown by the fact that she is a collaborator of the *BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING*, and has contributed to it some interesting articles.

It follows that the Irish Nurses' Association has secured as its Secretary a lady of great practical experience and of liberal and progressive views, and we may hope that it will prosper and increase during her term of office.



Miss A. CARSON RAE,  
*Secretary, Irish Nurses' Association.*

## The Irish Nurses' Association.

A lecture was last week delivered in Dublin by Mr. William Taylor, F.R.C.S.I., to the members of the Irish Nurses' Association. Mrs. Kildare Treacy presided. The subject was "Poisons," and Mr. Taylor gave a most instructive account, not only of poisons and their antidotes, but also of the nurse's responsibility, and which injections and remedies she was justified in using with each particular poison. There was a large attendance, and at the close a cordial vote of thanks was proposed by Miss Pate, seconded by Miss Egan, and supported by Mrs. Kildare Treacy.

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