

New Members of the Matrons' Council.

MISS MABEL THURSTON.

*Lady Superintendent, Christchurch Hospital,
New Zealand.*

The International Council of Trained Nurses is bringing the nurses of the world into personal as well as professional touch with one another, and the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, the Society which took the initiative in 1899 in forming it, welcomes most cordially to membership the Matrons of training schools for nurses in our splendid and progressive Dominions beyond the seas.

Miss Mabel Thurston, Lady Superintendent of Christchurch Hospital, was elected at the Birmingham meeting, and the accompanying picture gives us a nurse-like presentment of her in white uniform and the original "Bart's" cap.

Upon arriving in New Zealand from England in the year 1900, Miss Thurston was deeply interested in learning of the demand for nurses, and in the discussions which were then taking place on the State Registration question. (The Bill became law two years later).

She therefore entered the Wellington Hospital for training in 1901, and at the end of the third year obtained the hospital's certificate, and, having passed the State examination, was registered. Subsequently she was appointed Sister of the operating theatre, and

later of the women's surgical wards. In March, 1906, Miss Thurston became Matron of the Graymouth Hospital on the west coast, a gold and coal mining district, containing 60 beds, and in 1908 she was promoted to the important charge of the Christchurch Hospital, a position she still holds. This well-organised hospital contains 140 beds, and two new wards, each holding 30 beds, are to be opened early in the New Year. The nursing staff of 70 also

nurses a sanatorium for consumption. In the near future, according to the provisions of a new Hospitals Act recently passed in New Zealand, several other charitable institutions, which will come under the control of the Board of Management, will require to be staffed from nurses trained at the Christchurch Hospital.

Miss Thurston takes an active interest in the organisation of her profession, and is a member of the Council of the Christchurch Branch of the New Zealand Trained Nurses' Association, formed in 1908, and which has been such an unqualified success. Indeed, we hope it may be affiliated to the International Council of Nurses at Cologne in 1912.

From *Kai Tiaki*, the official organ of the New Zealand nurses, we learn with interest of wonderful progress in every direction, and with State Registration in force, this is only to be expected, because in all other countries the recognition and government of nurses by the State has been followed by marked improvements.



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