

## The Matrons' Council.

### A RECENT MEMBER

Miss Mary Winnmill, the Matron of the Children's Infirmary, Carshalton, under the Metropolitan Asylums Board, and a member of the Matrons' Council, was trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, entering the Special Probationers' Home in February, 1894, and after an interval, entered as a regular probationer at the end of that year. On obtaining her certificate she passed on to the Trained Nurses' Institute, after which, desiring to obtain experience in maternity nursing and midwifery, she went to the Lewisham Infirmary, where she acted as Ward Sister and Night Superintendent, getting her theoretical instruction in town in her off duty time. She obtained the certificate of the London Obstetrical Society in October, 1899, and when the Midwives' Act came into force was enrolled as a certified midwife.

Miss Winnmill left Lewisham Infirmary in order, by special request of H.R.H. Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, to nurse, with Miss Maude Thomson, some officers, wounded in the South African War, in a suite of rooms at the Savoy

Hotel, placed at the disposal of her Royal Highness by the Manager. From there, by desire of the Princess, she went to Roseneath, Argyllshire, to organise and superintend a Home for wounded and convalescent soldiers in a charming house generously devoted by the Princess to the reception of soldiers wounded in South Africa. Some of the furniture in this house had once belonged to Queen Victoria. Later her Royal Highness summoned Miss Winnmill to Kensington Palace, and presented her, for her work in this connection, with a medal of her own designing.

Miss Winnmill then returned to St. Bartholomew's Hospital for some further experience in hospital administration and housekeeping, tak-

ing charge of the Trained Nurses' Institute, and the Special Probationers' Home during the holidays of the Superintendents. During this time she also attended classes on massage, going into the wards to massage some of the patients daily.

In December, 1900, Miss Winnmill was appointed Sister-in-Charge of the female patients at the Hospitals' Convalescent Home, Parkwood, Swanley, and in September, 1901, entered the service of the Metropolitan Asylums Board as Superintendent of Night Nurses at the Grove Fever Hospital, Tooting, acting as Assistant Matron for several months during the

temporary absence of the Matron at the Gore Farm Lower Hospital, during the small-pox epidemic. Miss Winnmill was promoted to the position of Housekeeper in 1904, and in January, 1905, was appointed Assistant Matron at the South-Western Hospital, Stockwell, where she spent five happy years, leaving in January of the present year on her appointment to the post of Matron of the Children's Infirmary, Carshalton, the largest Children's Hospital in the world.

Through the care of Mr. John Burns, President of the Local Government Board, for the sick and infirm children of the Metropolis, this great hospital, on the Surrey hills,

is devoted to the reception of the children from the Metropolitan Poor Law Infirmaries, from which they are transferred by special motor. A certain proportion of the beds are for acute cases, but probably the hospital is of even greater benefit to the halt and the maimed, who in the sharp air of Carshalton develop abnormal appetites, and whose physique in many cases develops and improves. Added to which they are removed from the undesirable association with adults in infirmary wards, and placed in surroundings calculated to strengthen their moral stamina.

In addition to being a member of the Matrons' Council, Miss Winnmill is a member of the Society for State Registration of Trained



MISS MARY WINMILL,  
Matron, Children's Infirmary, Carshalton.

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