

NURSES OF NOTE.

MISS VIOLETTA THURSTAN.

We have pleasure in presenting a charming portrait of Miss Violetta Thurstan, whose appointment to the new civil hospital at Spezia, Italy, we announced last week. Miss Thurstan has many qualifications to fit her for the position. She has had training both in children's and general nursing, the former at the Children's Hospital, Shadwell, the latter at the London Hospital, and since then has had a wide and varied professional experience. But before she entered upon her nursing career it is evident that events were shaping her destiny, for she was educated in France and Germany, and speaks several foreign languages fluently—not, it must be admitted, a usual accomplishment of a nurse in this country—and she has done temporary work in hospitals in Spain and France. She has been County Superintendent of the West Riding Nursing Association, affiliated to the Q.V.J.I., for the last 2½ years. She is an exceedingly busy person, being "approved" by the Central Midwives Board, as well as being Lecturer for the Leeds Board of Education, representative of Midwives on the County Insurance Committee and Sub-Committee, and Secretary of the Leeds Branch of the Nurses' Social

Union, which was started mainly through her efforts.

She is a strong believer in the need for the higher education of nurses, and, with other educationalists, a warm supporter of State Registration of Trained Nurses.

Miss Thurstan is much looking forward to her work in Spezia, being one of those for whom pioneer work, with its difficulties and joys, has attractions. Readers of this journal, and more especially those who met her last year in Cologne, will wish her well in her new work.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick will open a Debate on State Registration of Nurses at the Lyceum Club on the evening of the 26th inst. It should prove useful, as so few educated women take the slightest interest in Nursing from an educational and professional standpoint. They pity the sick and wish them well, but seldom give a thought to how an efficient body of nurses is to be trained and provided for their needs. As to the scientific and practical curriculum

required for such a profession, the ignorance of the average woman is colossal, and this is the more strange as in so many professional families one or more members are trained nurses. The jealous exclusion of women from hospital management may account for this ignorance. Anyway, it is to be regretted.



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[previous page](#)

[next page](#)