

NURSES OF NOTE.

SISTER HENRIETTA, C.S.M. and A.A.*

One of the most notable personalities in the movement for Nurses' Registration is Sister Henrietta, of the Community of St. Michael's and All Angels, known to nurses as Sister Henrietta of Kimberley, for to her belongs the honour of being the prime mover in securing the enactment of the first Nurses' Registration Law placed on any Statute Book, the registration of nurses in Cape Colony being provided for under the Medical and Pharmacy Act in that Colony in 1891.

The memoir of Sister Henrietta dealing with her life in Bloemfontein and Kimberley from 1874-1911, edited by the Dowager Lady Loch and Miss Stockdale, and published by Messrs. Longmans, Green & Co., to whom we are indebted for the portrait published on this page, is thus of special interest.

Lady Loch, in a short preface, states that it has been urged that the record of Sister Henrietta's life may be an inspiration to other women and girls as an example of self-sacrifice and devotion to duty. Certainly nurses will realise that in Sister Henrietta they have an example not only of devotion to the sick under their care, which is an easy thing, but to the sick as a whole, a necessary result of which is to contend earnestly for the organisation of the nursing profession for the ultimate benefit of the sick, a much rarer, because more difficult, conception of duty.

Henrietta Stockdale, daughter of the Rev.

Henry Stockdale, was, we are told, a clever and intelligent child from the first. Her childhood was passed in a straitened atmosphere, for there were five children in five years, and very little money to keep them on. But her individuality showed itself early in life. "Her mind was deeply religious and literary, but her education, from force of circumstances, was very scanty. . . . She was precocious, her mind was always reaching out for food, and there was very little on which it could feed. For two or three years of her life at this time she was not

perhaps an agreeable child, and she seemed older than other children of her age, and she liked to be with older people."

Her interest in the Bloemfontein Mission began at an early date, and in 1873 she received a definite invitation to go out to South Africa. "There was no doubt in her mind. It was what she had looked forward to for years, and now the call had come." Her religious vocation followed upon her missionary call. Before going to South Africa she received some training in nursing, first at the Clewer Hospital, and then at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London, which she extended later, on a fur-

lough at home, by going to University College Hospital for further experience. With her love of thoroughness all was welcome.

Writing of the strain of work in the early days at Bloemfontein, Sister Henrietta said, "Some of us have 'a natural lust of work.' Nevertheless as 'enough is as good as a feast,' we shall be extremely delighted to receive the reinforcement which the Bishop is bringing us."

Like many busy people, Sister Henrietta was



SISTER HENRIETTA. BORN 1874, DIED 1911.

* Longmans, Green & Co., 39, Paternoster Row, London E.C. 2S. 6d. net.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)