

A. WOMAN WITH A GREAT OPPORTUNITY.

MISS BEATRICE MONK, MATRON OF THE LONDON HOSPITAL.

The new Matron of the London Hospital is to be envied. She has a great opportunity of benefitting the whole Nursing Profession by reorganizing on modern educational and economic lines the great hospital in the East

Ward, and thus taking part in the practical training of probationers and the direction of a ward.

We remember as the then Sister of Charlotte Ward, with twelve months' experience, carefully replying to the questions, and on the proposal to reduce the term of training from three to two years' practical work for probationers in the wards in a hospital containing 800 beds, giving very cogent reasons against such a change, both for the skilled care of the

patients and in justice to the nurses, reasons which will occur to any Sister with practical experience of ward management, without retailing them here.

The change, however, was enforced, and its dire results are to be found in the official records, in Blue Book form, of the Select Committee of the House of Lords Inquiry into Metropolitan Hospitals, which took place in 1891. Here one may read evidence which inspired the Lords Committee to report that in their opinion a three years' term of



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training was necessary;—evidence which proved that the short-term training resulted in overwork, shattered health, and an appalling percentage of deaths amongst the nursing staff, and that the large number of untrained probationers in charge of patients in the wards made skilled attendance impossible. Advertising these probationers in the press "as trained nurses," and supplying them to a credulous public as such, was no less reprehensible.

The Report brought the London up with a round turn, but the recommendation that the

End of London, which, in the opinion of many of its trainees, and of their colleagues in other Nursing Schools, should be brought up to date without undue delay.

In the autumn of 1880, soon after her appointment as Matron, the late Miss Eva Lückes issued to the Sisters a list of questions bearing on the changes thought necessary to modernize the Nursing System then in practice. This was very necessary, as Miss Lückes, after only one year's training, had been certificated at Westminster Hospital, and had never had the advantage of being the Sister of a

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