

NURSES OF NOTE.

MISS E. A. MONTGOMERY WILSON, R.R.C.

The beautiful Principality of Wales has but two large hospitals, those of Cardiff and Swansea, and of the former Miss E. A. Montgomery Wilson, Doyenne of Welsh nurses, who in April is resigning that position, has been Matron for 32 years, since the days when, known as the Glamorgan and Monmouthshire Infirmary, it had but 108 occupied beds, and a staff of 31 Sisters and Nurses. Now, after being known for a time as King Edward VII's Hospital, Cardiff, it is the Cardiff Royal Infirmary, with some 400 beds, and a staff of 125 nurses.

Miss Montgomery Wilson began her nursing career as a special probationer at the Adelaide Hospital, Dublin, her original intention being to join Miss F. J. Carroll, who worked under the direction of Lord Plunket among the sick poor of Dublin. She, however, became fascinated with hospital work, and has spent the whole of her nursing days in institution life.

When Miss Emily M. Guinness, who had trained at the Adelaide Hospital, was appointed Matron of the West Kent Hospital, Maidstone, she urged Miss Wilson to join her there, which she did, having charge of wards, and, in addition, frequently did the Matron's work in her absence, and when she was ill.

The theoretical teaching of nurses, says Miss Wilson, was poor in those days. Dr. Charles Hoar gave some lectures on nursing, but there was no systematic training.

Many friends urged her to apply for a Matron's post, and she left the West Kent General Hospital, after eight years, to take up the position of Matron to Tewkesbury Hospital, but there was not there enough scope to satisfy her, and she obtained the position of Home Sister at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London, a post which, however, she never took up, going instead to its Highgate Branch (Cromwell House) as Lady Superintendent, where she worked under Dr. David B. Lees and Sir Charles Ballance. Here she did the work of House Surgeon and Anaesthetist, so that her experience was varied, but still ambition, energy, capacity, spurred her on, and led her to apply for the Matronship of the Glamorgan and Monmouthshire Infirmary.

Somewhat to her surprise she obtained the post, for she knew no one in Cardiff at that time, and from then onwards there has been no standing still for her. Dr. Alfred Sheen, then Senior Surgeon, in the beginning helped her much to bring things up-to-date, and the medical staff, as a whole, backed her up in re-organising the whole of the nursing. A private nursing staff was attached to the hospital, and

nurses were sent out to private cases with very little training. This she stopped very soon.

The Hospital—in the development of which Miss Montgomery Wilson has taken so deep an interest, and played so important a part—is now a beautiful building, with a Maternity Hospital attached, a Preliminary Training School (Anthony House) quite close, a beautiful Convalescent Home for Women and Children at Lavernock. The Medical School connected with the Hospital is worked on the Unit system, and there is a first-class Training School for Nurses, with a wide, and well-deserved reputation. A beautiful little church has also been built and furnished, entirely by gifts. The one great need now is a Nurses' Home, where the whole staff can be accommodated.

In the South African War Miss Wilson acted as Superintendent Sister of the Langman Field Hospital, Pretoria, throughout its activities, seven of the Nurses from the Cardiff Infirmary working under her. She returned home as Superintendent Sister of a Hospital Ship from Durban to Netley.

In 1909 Miss Wilson was appointed Principal Matron of the 3rd Western General Hospital, and is still a Principal Matron in the T.A.N.S. It is an evidence of her capacity for organisation that she obtained the whole Nursing Staff for the hospital, and kept it at full strength during the war, and that the Unit is still complete.

The system of nurse-training has been steadily progressing at the Royal Infirmary, Cardiff, for many years past, and we have before us the Scheme of Training both for the Preliminary Course of eight weeks for Probationer Nurses, and for the subsequent course of three years' training. Lectures are given both by members of the Honorary Staff and of the University.

Miss Wilson, who is a distinguished member of the Royal British Nurses' Association, received the South African Medal from the hands of King Edward VII, and the Royal Red Cross and Bar from His Majesty King George.

RESIGNATION OF MISS A. L. EARLE, R.R.C.

Miss A. L. Earle, S.R.N., Matron of the Sheffield Royal Hospital, has resigned the position which she has held with much distinction, and many regrets are expressed at her impending retirement into private life.

Miss Earle was trained at the Liverpool Royal Infirmary, where she held successively the positions of Sister, Night Superintendent, and Assistant Matron. On the outbreak of war she was transferred to the position of Matron of the Third Northern General Hospital, Sheffield, subsequently holding similar appointments in Mesopotamia and India, and returning to Sheffield Royal Hospital in 1921.

Miss Earle, who holds a number of decorations and medals, including the Royal Red Cross, will leave the Royal Hospital, Sheffield, on May 31st.



Miss E. A. MONTGOMERY-WILSON, R.R.C.
Doyenne of Welsh Nurses

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