

THE APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY.

MISS GRACE REYNOLDS HALE, R.R.C.,

It is with great pleasure we announce the appointment as Secretary of The British College of Nurses of Miss Grace Reynolds Hale, S.R.N., R.R.C., Foundation Fellow of the College.

Miss Hale has had a varied nursing career. She was trained and certificated at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London (1901-1904), and has held the positions of Night Superintendent at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh, Ward Sister and Home Sister at the Queen's Hospital for Children, Hackney Road, E., Home Sister at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and Matron at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital in the Euston Road, N.W. During the War she was called up for duty at Number One General Hospital T.F.N.S., from which she was seconded for the important appointment of Matron of the Military Hospital, Endell Street, London, W.C., which she held with distinction until it was closed down, when she resumed her duties at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital.

One Member of the Council remarked, after having met Miss Grace Reynolds Hale, that what struck her most during the interview was the impression of "reliability" which Miss Hale's personality gives. This is a very valuable asset in a Secretary but it is something to know that the impression is justified for it is borne out by the testimony of a lady under whom Miss Hale worked for a number of years:—"No fuss, no excitement or trouble but her work is always done, her undertakings always completed." Surely no higher testimony need be asked for of the character of one entering upon an office of great responsibility. But Miss Hale is something more than a capable, conscientious and efficient organiser; she has qualifications which individual Fellows and Members of the College will have cause to appreciate: these are her sympathy and her quick understanding of how best to show this sympathy and helpfulness. We can, as an instance, well remember the evening on which Miss Maude MacCallum went into the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital and, by the way, it might not be out of place to tell how it happened that she did so. As she saw the day drawing nearer when it would no longer be possible for her to remain in her flat

she remarked, "Now, if ever I have to go to a hospital, of all others I should prefer the Garrett Anderson for I always remember Miss Hale's kind manner to the soldiers when I took them to Endsleigh Street." And sure enough the day came when she was to experience this same kindness herself. That last journey down the road she had travelled so often to her office was sad beyond words: it meant giving in at last, after years of struggle and effort to combat the inexorable. We shall never forget what it was to her, as she entered the gateway to this last resting place in her life's journey, to find the Matron out on the pavement

to welcome her. "This is so kind of you." "I count it a great honour to have you." That, with a handgrip, was all, but to use the words of Miss MacCallum, "I felt for the first time in my life what it meant to be cared for instead of caring for others."

There are those in life who must break up new fields of endeavour, those who must give the impulse to new movements, those, too, there are who must exercise retardative forces popular at the time but seldom appreciated in the after-glow of history, though they do play their part in preventing a one-sided or too-rapid development; then there are those who are actuated by experience, others by expediency, others by knowledge, some by wisdom and, always, if there is to be success in any endeavour, there must also be those who quietly, unostentatiously, so work that they bring to completion the enterprise by harmonising, by gathering up the weavings of all into the one great central purpose. There are personalities who are apt to be forgotten, who are glad to be overlooked but they are none the less essential to the success of any development. And they are the kind of qualities which Miss Hale

possesses in no small degree. The Central Building of the British College of Nurses is likely to evolve an atmosphere of quiet kindness and a ready sympathy that will be of no small effect in making the Headquarters of the College something more than collegiate, that will make it a centre where courtesy takes root and spreads to Members in the farthest places of the Empire.

We offer to Miss Hale, on her new appointment, the greatest wish that we can send to her—namely, that her work may be as honourable, as fruitful and as beneficent in its purposes and attainments as it has been up to the time of entering upon her new office.



MISS GRACE REYNOLDS HALE, F.B.C.N., S.R.N., R.R.C.
Secretary, The British College of Nurses.

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