

MISS MARY M. ROBERTS, R.N., B.S.

AN EMINENT PROFESSIONAL COLLEAGUE.

Miss Mary M. Roberts, Editor of the *American Journal of Nursing*, who has recently been making a short visit to Europe, including Great Britain in its scope, and a Christmas spent in London, has had a varied and interesting professional career. She is a graduate of the Jewish Hospital School of Nursing, Cincinnati, training under Miss Mary Hamar Greenwood, a pupil of Miss Alice Fisher.

Miss Roberts subsequently established the School of Nursing at the Savannah Hospital, Savannah, Georgia, and was Assistant Superintendent of the Hospital and School of Nursing of the Jewish Hospital, Cincinnati. After a year or two of private duty nursing, she was appointed Superintendent of a private hospital for Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat cases. She was then Director of the Nursing Service of a Division of the American Red Cross (Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky) during the early months of the American participation in the Great War, and established the Camp Shannon Unit of the Army School of Nursing, of which Miss A. W. Goodrich was Dean, in 1918, and became Matron of the Base Hospital, Camp Shannon, with 2,000 beds, remaining there in charge, and also of the School, until the Units of the School were concentrated as permanent Army posts. After demobilisation, Miss Roberts spent two years at Teachers' College, Columbia University, New York, and holds the Diploma in Administration of Nursing Schools, and has the B.S. degree of that institution.

Loving the study of English, Miss Roberts devoted all her extra credit hours to that subject. At the termination of her first year at Teachers' College she was approached by the Board of the *American Journal of Nursing* with a tentative offer of an editorial post. This she declined as she wished to complete the work for a degree. Later she accepted the post offered, and devoted most of her last semester to Journalism. She also continued the study in extension courses for a year after taking up a position with the *American Journal of Nursing*. It was a coincidence that Miss Sophia Palmer, the Journal's great pioneer editor, should have died only a week or two before an English instructor said to Miss Roberts, "You know you could become a competent writer in your own field if you wanted to."

Miss Roberts is a member of the Board of Nurse Examiners of the State of Ohio, and a Member of the Board of the National League of Nursing Education.

It will be realised how rich a preparation this varied experience has been for the work in which Miss Roberts is now engaged as Editor of the *American Journal of Nursing*—a professional organ which her colleagues all over the world are proud to know is organised and edited by "one of ours."

Miss Roberts and her friend, Miss Marguerite Wales, whose special interests are Public Health and Social Service, and who is head of the Nurses' Section of the work of the Henry Street Settlement, New York, have visited many of the London Hospitals and been shown the working of their various departments, including St. Thomas's, St. Bartholomew's, the London, University College Hospital, and others.

It was a great pleasure to the President and Council of British College of Nurses that Miss Roberts was able to be present at the presentation of the silver platter as a memorial to Major Sir Richard Barnett, and to hear Mrs. Bedford Fenwick read the Epilogue to the Pageant of Nursing written by Miss M. Mollett after the Registration Acts had been passed but never yet presented, and also at the ceremonial cutting of the Registration Cake with its eleven candles, symbolical of the eleven years the Registration Acts

have been in force, which were lighted one by one by the President and Councillors.

Miss Roberts and Miss Wales were also the guests of the Royal British Nurses Association at dinner on Christmas Day and saw how British Nurses "keep the feast." They were at Westminster Abbey for the morning service, and on the following Sunday attended that at St. Bartholomew the Great in Smithfield.

Festivities in the hospitals also claimed them.

Miss Roberts takes away with her to New York "many beautiful mind pictures," perhaps that "throat constricting" line of nursing students carrying on, unbroken, a lovely tradition will live longest.

Carrying lanterns they made a round of the wards at St. Thomas's Hospital on Boxing Day, singing carols, conducted by Miss Coode, the Assistant Matron, a tradition instituted by Miss Nightingale, and as old as the school itself.

Miss Roberts tells us that "the remembrance of the kindnesses of her colleagues in this the land of her fathers will surely be an imperishable memory."

NURSES' ORGANISATIONS.

FEVER NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

A most interesting and instructive lecture was given by Major Richard Rigg, O.B.E., J.P., to members of the Fever Nurses' Association on the occasion of a recent Social Meeting held at the Headquarters of the Royal British Nurses' Association, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W.

The Lecturer dealt in an exhaustive manner with the rise and influence of the Guilds of the City of London from their earliest times, how they were formed by the members of the various trades carried on within the Square Mile of the City of London for the purposes of protection and assistance. The Guilds were also champions of Liberty, and although at the present time the reasons for their formation do not exist, yet they are engaged to a very considerable extent in the cause of Education and Charity and in numerous other ways. Many of the City Companies as they are now called maintain almshouses and are keenly interested in the cause of Education and have many large schools under their control.

Various examples were given by Major Rigg of quaint, and in some cases amusing, customs that have been carried on ever since the foundation of the Guilds.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Lecturer who was asked to give another of his Lectures at a later date to the members.

THE MENTAL HOSPITAL MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

The 31st Quarterly Meeting of the Mental Hospital Matrons' Association was held at the Royal British Nurses' Association Club, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W.7., on Saturday, December 13th, 1930, at 2.30 p.m., preceded by a Meeting of the Executive Committee at 2 p.m.

The applications for membership of Miss Yeadon of Eaton Grange, Norwich, and Miss Taylor of Kent County Mental Hospital, Chartham, Kent, were unanimously approved.

The Honorary Secretary was instructed to send a letter of congratulation to Miss M. G. Rowlands, late of Hollymoor Mental Hospital, on obtaining the Diploma in Mental Nursing of the London University. Also a letter of congratulation to her Matron, Miss Pearson.

The Honorary Secretary was also instructed to write a letter of congratulation to Miss Macaulay on the publication of her Textbook for Mental Nurses.

Dr. Edgerley's paper on "Examinations" was discussed. Miss Smith emphasised the lack of clinical material

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)