

One evening she read that St. Bartholomew's Hospital, in the City of London, required a Matron. Here was her chance. She decided that she would become that Matron. Early next morning, she dressed with utmost care and laid a little emphasis on her "great age" (she was twenty-four years old), and armed with particulars of her experience and with glowing testimonials, she presented herself at the astonished Secretary's office at 9 a.m. punctually, and revealed the reason for her early visit. She completely won over the Secretary, who was captivated by her beauty, her obvious abilities and by her culture and charm. After promising to help her in her ambition, he made the necessary enquiries, and a week later she was summoned to a Board meeting and informed that her application had been successful.

Her joy knew no bounds, and the good news flew ahead of her to "the London," for she tells us that when she stepped off the tram on her way back the Chairman of the London Hospital had a carriage and pair awaiting her, and thus she returned in triumph to receive well-deserved congratulations.

Early in 1881, she commenced her duties as Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and although we have no records of any outstanding events of her career during this period, she has since related to us that she worked long hours each day, organising the Training School so that it became the leading Nurse Training School in the country. She was at this time very beautiful, possessing a vivid and colourful personality. She adored smart clothes, beautiful colours, classical music, good books, and she had a flair for exquisite furniture and china, both modern and antique. She loved her work, and at all times she was blessed with abounding health and a good strong constitution.

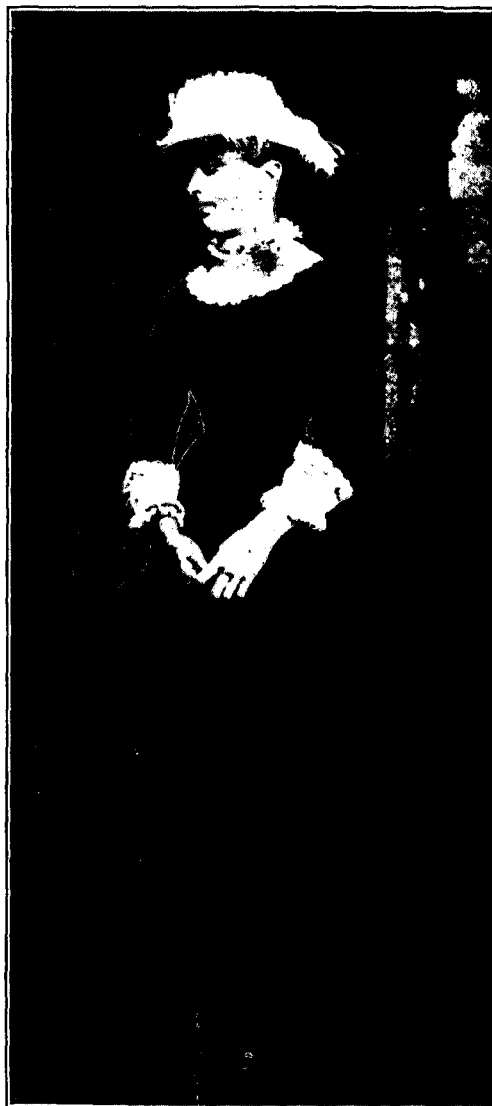
Devoted as she was to her profession, she realised that if she wished to marry and have children, such important matters were better not left too late. She, thereupon, accepted Dr. Bedford Fenwick's offer of marriage, and early in 1887 she resigned her post as Matron of "Bart's," a little regretfully no doubt, and was married. Dr. Bedford Fenwick was a great man, a true helpmeet and a reliable and trusted guide. He was an unobtrusive and tremendous benefactor to the Nursing Profession.

#### PUBLIC WORK FOR THE PROFESSION.

##### STATE REGISTRATION FOR NURSES.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's great public work for the Profession commenced in the year of her marriage in 1887, with the founding of the British Nurses' Association, under the Presidency of the late Princess Christian. On reception of its Royal Charter granted by Queen Victoria in 1893, it became the Royal British Nurses' Association, and was the first professional women's organisation to be so honoured. Its aims were "to unite all British Nurses in membership of a recognised profession and to provide for their Registration as evidence of their having received systematic training, and to associate them for their mutual help and protection and for the advancement of their professional work."

Thus was the first attempt ever made to obtain legal status and State recognition for Nurses in this or any other country; but it was many a year before success crowned these early and noble efforts. Dr. and Mrs.



THOUGHTFULLY, MISS MANSON  
AWAITS HER DESTINY.

Bedford Fenwick first drafted the Bill for State Registration of Nurses in the United Kingdom early in 1903. Its career was chequered from the outset, and its passage through Parliament was bitterly opposed by eminent nurses, chief amongst whom was our illustrious Florence Nightingale. It was also obstructed by many leading medical men of the day and by some Members of Parliament. It was truly a Bill of bitter tears, of deferred hopes and of long and wordy battles, and it was not until years after its conception that it finally became law and was placed on the Statute Book in 1919.

The Bill was first introduced into the House of Commons by Dr. Farquharson (Member for West Aberdeenshire) late in 1903. Nearly five years later it was introduced into the House of Lords (on the advice of the Earl of Crewe and Sir Robert Munroe-Ferguson—later Lord Novar) by Lord Ampthill, and it passed without a division at any stage—a tremendous compliment to its originators. Unfortunately, however, on its return to

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