

# NURSE MINNIE CHARLES - BROHN

## A NEW ZEALANDER IN NAZARETH

The below photographs and press cuttings have been sent to the Trust to share the story of an amazing lady who is part of our organisation's history.



The wedding of Miss Minnie Charles to Rev H. W Brohn in the American Church, Jerusalem, on September 23, 1930

The wedding of Minnie Charles was also featured in the 'OTAGO Daily Times' on November 25, 1930. The article gives a complete account of Minnie's wedding day to her husband, Rev H.W. Brohn. The article states:

***'The church was beautifully decorated with white and pale green flowers and many gifts from Jerusalem friends. The bride, gowned in white crepe de chine, carried a bouquet of white asters, carnations, and maidenhair fern, covered with tulle; she was given away by Dr William Bathgate, of Nazareth... After the ceremony carried out by Rev. M. Smalley of the Christian Missionary Alliance, Jerusalem, the bridal party led the way to the Sunday***

***school hall, which was beautifully decorated by the American missionaries. Here tea was served to the guests after speeches were made by those present, many cablegrams from New Zealand and from all parts of the world read. The bride and bridegroom left later for Bethlehem...'***

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***"Nazareth is a very pretty place, especially now, when the wildflowers bloom everywhere"***

Minnie Charles - Brohn worked as a Nurse in the Nazareth Hospital between 1927 - 1930. In an article that she had written for her local hometown paper, 'Thames Star' in October 1928, Minnie reflects on living in Nazareth. Minnie stated:

***'Nazareth is a very pretty place, especially now, when the wildflowers bloom everywhere - anemones are very common.'***



L to R: Dr Bathgate, Rev H.W. Brohn, Mr J.E. Wilson, Minnie Charles, Miss Warren and Miss Irene Bathgate.



## NURSING IN PALESTINE. EXPERIENCES OF A NEW ZEALANDER.

Nurse Minnie Charles, of Wellington, who is on a trip abroad, writing from Nazareth, Palestine, where she is working in a mission hospital, gives a very interesting account of her work, which must indeed be strenuous.

"Nazareth is a very pretty place, especially just now, when the wild flowers are in bloom everywhere—anemones are very common. In summer the place is bare and stony, and very hot and dusty, so we are enjoying the cold weather and rains, and hope it will rain a good deal more yet. Water is our great problem. For nine months of the year we do not have even a shower. How we would appreciate a daily bath, but this is impossible. Water is used for bathing, then for the floors, then for the drains and then to irrigate the gardens; often for washing clothes after baths—so you see that none is wasted. We have 50 beds in hospital, beside cots.

Thames Star, Volume LXII, Issue 17447, 9 October 1928.

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*"The people appreciate what we do for them: one only wishes the days would last longer, so that we could accomplish more, but we must be satisfied"*

In her article in the 'Thames Star,' Minnie describes her role and some of the common ailments of patients she treated at the Nazareth Hospital.

***'I am in charge of all the wards, out-patients (hospital and down town) - theater, and give lectures to nurses twice a week... A great deal of our work is with eyes - what a lot of blindness - trichiasis, ulcers, trachoma, etc... We take maternity cases too, and the doctor and I do quite a lot of village work. There is plenty to do, and the days just fly past and, of course, the spiritual side of work takes time too. Services a.m. and p.m. for all wards and staff etc. However, it is most interesting, and the people appreciate what we do for them.'***

### TELL YOUR STORY

***Do you have a story to share? If you or someone you know has a story about being involved in any part of the Trust's work, we want to hear from you!***

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