

The Passing Bell.

We greatly regret to record the death of Miss Louisa Mackay Gordon, which took place recently at Hove, Brighton. Only in October last Miss Gordon resigned the position of Matron of St. Thomas's Hospital, where by her kindness of heart, and her endeavour to improve the conditions of work of the nursing staff, she endeared herself to members of the staff which she controlled. Much sympathy is felt with her sisters, who have both held important positions in the nursing world, in their bereavement.

The death is announced at Kabule, Uganda, while travelling from Mengo to Toro, of Mrs. Ashton Bond, wife of Dr. Ashton Bond, of the Church Missionary Society. Mrs. Bond, who was a fully-trained nurse, went out with her husband to Uganda in 1901, and they were on their way to take up work in Toro, Mrs. Bond being apparently in perfect health, when, during the journey, she was attacked by acute peritonitis and died after an illness of less than three days. She is buried on the hill-top at Mengo, where lie the remains of the martyred Bishop Hannington, and the brave pioneer George Pilkington, who met with so tragic an end in the last war in Uganda, when he conceived his duty to be with the natives, who were his "sons in the faith," who were fighting their country's battles.

The circumstances of the death of Miss L. L. Watts, a Sister at the Strangers' Hospital, Rio de Janeiro, are peculiarly pathetic, as she died before having received the medal conferred for service in the South African campaign. Some British residents had organised a demonstration in her honour, when her illness and death changed the proposed festivity into a mournful ceremony. A large number of residents were present at her funeral, the coffin being covered with wreaths and natural flowers.

Less Keys and More Nurses.

The strain on the nursing staff at the recent fire at the Colney Hatch Asylum must have been tremendous, and we are not surprised to learn that one nurse has since died, and that the night superintendent, who has worked in the Asylum for twenty-five years, has resigned on account of ill-health. The horrors of the brief time during which it was possible to render aid to these unfortunate people, and the holocaust which ensued, in spite of the many brave rescues which took place, must surely leave their impress for life on all who witnessed the terrible tragedy. We hope the lesson will be taken to heart—Less keys, more nurses, and more exits.

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

Her Majesty Queen Alexandra has given £1,000 in response to the London Hospital quinquennial appeal.



On the motion of Earl Carrington, a first reading was given to a Bill in the House of Lords on Monday to authorise the London County Council to provide houses for the reception of lunatics or others mentally afflicted pending their removal to asylums.

The *Stock Exchange Review* remarks, in reference to the removal of St. George's Hospital:—"Sir Henry Burdett, the vice-chairman of the Gordon Hotels Company, seems in favour of St. George's Hospital moving into a more useful locality and a new Gordon Hotel being put up on its present magnificent site. This smart suggestion, put into effect, would be the long-sought bull point for the shares." We should advise the Governors of this hospital to be very careful that their magnificent site is not "given away." It is worth a million sterling, and the Gordon Hotels Company should be required to produce that sum if they are to acquire the very finest position for a hotel in the metropolis.

At a meeting at the Mansion House in support of the Hospital for Women, Soho Square, Sir Edmund Hay Currie, the secretary of the Hospital Sunday Fund, urged that the Committee should appeal for £25,000 and entirely rebuild the institution, as that would be the cheapest course in the end. The old building could not be worked economically, and it was on this ground that the grant from the Hospital Sunday Fund was not larger than it was. The cost per patient was at present larger than in any other similar hospital, but in a new building the work might be carried on for ten shillings a week less per patient than at present. The continual need for patching up the old building was a constant drain on their resources. We second this wise suggestion.

At the annual general meeting of the British Lying-In Hospital it was announced by Mrs. Charles B. Farmer, Chairman of the Board of Management, that the Princess of Wales had consented to perform the ceremony of opening two new wards on June 8th.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, in his evidence before the War Commission, said that as head physician in one of the private hospitals, he was through the great epidemic at Bloemfontein. He thought that there must have been a disastrous breakdown without the private hospitals, and that the services of the latter had been inadequately acknowledged. The Army Medical Service rose well to the occasion, but was very short-handed. He thought that more pains should have been taken in the selection of civil surgeons sent out by Government, and that a registry of men willing to serve should be kept in time of peace. The nurses did admirable service. The spirit of the men whom he saw in hospital was splendid.

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