

The Passing Bell.

We regret to record the death from pneumonia, at the Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot, of Miss Fitzgerald, a Sister in Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. The funeral took place on Tuesday with full military honours. The coffin, draped with the Union Jack, was conveyed from the Nursing Sisters' Quarters to the cemetery on a field gun, six members of the Royal Army Medical Corps acting as pall-bearers. It was preceded by the band of the corps, and following immediately behind the chief mourners, and headed by the Matron-in-Chief, Miss Sidney Browne, were detachments of Nursing Sisters from Aldershot, Woolwich, Netley, and elsewhere. General McNamara and the officers of the Royal Army Medical Corps, were present at the graveside.

Mrs. Edwards, Superintendent Nurse at the Workhouse Infirmary, Wellingborough, was laid to rest in the cemetery last week amidst every token of esteem. The funeral procession started from the nurses' quarters and passed through rows of inmates, who were manifestly grieved at the death of a trusted friend. The coffin was almost hidden by the wealth of flowers sent by the officers of the workhouse and others, and was followed to the grave by the Matron, Assistant Matrons, and many nurses, who were joined at the cemetery by the personal friends of the deceased nurse.

At the last meeting of the Wellingborough Guardians the Chairman, Mr. M. P. Sharman, expressed the deep regret of the Board at the death of Nurse Edwards, who was, he said, highly valued not only by the Guardians but by the whole of the officers.

It is with regret we record the sad death of Nurse Florence Barnwell, at the Adelaide Hospital, Dublin. Early one morning she was heard calling for help, and when another nurse went to her assistance she stated that she had taken two ounces of oxalic acid. In spite of prompt medical assistance she died shortly afterwards.

It was subsequently stated that the nurse had for some time complained of severe headaches, and had been low spirited. At the inquest a verdict was returned that the deceased took the poison while insane, the jury adding a rider that the hours of work for night nurses were excessive. It should, however, be noted that the hours of night duty are in no way peculiar to the Adelaide Hospital, but are the usual hours on duty for night nurses in most institutions.

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



H.R.H. the Princess Royal has graciously consented to lay the foundation stone of the new wing now being built at the Bolingbroke Hospital, Wandsworth Common, S.W. The date will probably be at the end of April.

The memorial on the control of consumption presented to the Metropolitan Asylums Board by Sir William Broadbent, and which will be considered by the Board on the 12th inst., appears to open up fresh prospects of public usefulness to a body which is well qualified by experience of disease and by knowledge of the special needs of the metropolis to render great service to the community. It is urged upon the Board that it should constitute itself the tuberculosis authority for the metropolis, and thus acquire power to deal with all occurring cases of pulmonary consumption in such a manner as to reduce the risks of infection to a *minimum*, and to place at least some check upon the present almost unrestrained diffusion of a malady which, in the words of Sir William Broadbent, costs the country tens of thousands of lives and millions of money every year.

The action of the Board which he advocates would enable them to devote one or more of the existing hospitals for the treatment of infectious disease to the reception of consumption, and to surround the patients with precautions which would in great measure arrest the enormous extension of the disease which is now occasioned by uncontrolled expectoration. It would in the first instance be necessary to establish notification of all cases of consumption coming under the observation of Poor Law medical officers or of the physicians to public institutions, and thus to obtain more exact knowledge than is now possessed of the actual extent of the evil in the metropolis; while the next step would be to utilise this knowledge by the assistance of philanthropic visitors and of sanitary inspectors, whose business it would be to carry out necessary measures of sanitation or disinfection in the dwelling, and to instruct the patient and the members of his family with regard to the chief sources of danger to the healthy and to the means by which they could be minimised.

A revised dietary for the children in one of the London County Council schools having been submitted to their medical officer, he reported that a good deal of dental disease is caused by the children eating biscuits at bedtime. He suggests that "toothbrush drill" should be insisted upon, and this "drill" will be carried out the last thing at night.

Mrs. Alfred Paine, of Wharfedale, Goldington Road, Bedford, informs us that she will be pleased to send a complete sheet of illustrations of the admirable Carrying-Sheet Stretcher, of which she wrote in this Journal recently, to any one who writes to her for it, enclosing a penny stamp for postage. This sheet of illustrations is very instructive.

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