

## THE PASSING BELL.

It is with great regret that we record the death of Miss Rachel Frances Lumsden, a distinguished member of the nursing profession, which took place on Thursday in last week, at the residence of her sister, Miss Katherine Lumsden, Richmondhill Place, Aberdeen. Miss Lumsden was one of those early pioneers of the modern system of nursing, to whom the present generation owes much. When the Royal Hospital for Sick Children was founded in Aberdeen she offered her honorary services to the committee. She gave valuable advice as to the construction of the building, and later was put in entire control of the nursing and domestic arrangements. Eight years later she undertook a still more difficult task, that of reorganising the nursing department at the Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen, which she accomplished with distinction during the twelve years which she held the position of Lady Superintendent. Her services were recognised by the dedication to her of a ward "in commemoration of valuable and devoted services gratuitously rendered as hospital superintendent, these services including important reforms in nursing and administration."

When she retired in 1898, Miss Lumsden received an autograph album containing an address from the medical profession in the city, in which they stated that in withdrawing from the profession of nursing she left it in a condition of excellence never before approached in that part of Scotland. Miss Lumsden was also honoured with a message from the late Queen Victoria, who stated that she had learned "with interest and deep appreciation of the great and valued services" which she had given "with untiring zeal and self-denial to the sick and suffering of the poorer classes of Aberdeen."

Previously (in 1891), Miss Lumsden had been appointed by Queen Victoria as a member of the Council of the Scottish Branch of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute. Her keen interest in the better organisation of the nursing profession will be remembered by all who worked with her in connection with the British Nurses' Association in its early days. She was one of the signatories to the Incorporation Clause of the Royal Charter, and warmly supported its work, so long as the Association was managed on lines of which she approved.

She has left a noble example of single-hearted devotion to duty, of high ideals, and of good work accomplished, work which we trust will bear fruit, and be continued by those who had the advantage of being trained under her direction.

## THE LATE MISS F. E. SPENCER.

We have been asked to give publicity to the fact that it is proposed to erect a memorial tombstone over the grave of the late Miss Spencer, formerly Lady Superintendent of Nurses, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, in Dollar Churchyard. Nurses who were trained or served under Miss Spencer, as well as other friends desirous of contributing to this memorial, may send their contributions (from one shilling upwards) to Mr. W. S. Caw, 19, Queen's Crescent, Edinburgh, who has agreed to act as Honorary Treasurer for the fund.

## Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The Princess of Wales has become President of the Children's League of Kindness for South London. The annual meeting of the Association will be held at Bridgewater House on Thursday, May 14, at half-past four o'clock. Lord Llangattock will preside.

The National League for Physical Education and Improvement has removed its offices to No. 11, Southampton Row, where it has entered into a working alliance with the British Institute of Social Service.

The very valuable work of the After-Care Committee of the L.C.C. deserve to be better known and widely supported. This Committee tries to find suitable employment for the blind, deaf, and crippled children when they leave the London County Council special schools; and it is essential that suitable employment should be found for these heavily handicapped children, as soon as their school career is finished, otherwise the large sums of money spent on maintaining the special schools for such children will be, to a large extent, wasted.

A statement made at the meeting of the Grantham Board of Guardians reminds one of the Middle Ages and the treatment of those who died of the plague. The fear of infection has evidently lost none of its terrors. It was reported that Dr. Macdonald, vaccination officer for Woolsthorpe village, had been compelled to carry to the grave a coffin containing an old man who had died from small-pox, all the other residents refusing to go near the coffin. Another doctor was appointed by the Guardians as deputy vaccination officer for Woolsthorpe, as many people desired to be re-vaccinated, but were afraid to go near Dr. Macdonald, owing to his attending small-pox cases.

The Prince and Princess of Wales will open the Franco-British Exhibition on May 11th.

Sir George White, the President of the Queen Victoria Hospital at Nice, presiding at the annual meeting, said that in 1907 they spent 43,214 francs for the maintenance of the hospital. The sum seemed a large one, but where they had to deal with different classes of paying patients, as well as free patients, and also to administer an annexe for infectious cases, it was impossible to regulate the expenditure with regard to nurses and other items as in an ordinary hospital. At the present moment the annexe for infectious cases was filled with patients. The hospital was daily growing in favour, and with the continued support of the English and American colonies of the Riviera, they would ere long see it well established, as it ought to be, and one of the most efficient hospitals for English-speaking people on the Continent.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)