

Pro Patria.

A READER who knew the late Sister Clayton writes:—"In Wednesday's newspapers the first name that caught the eye in the list of deaths at Bloemfontein from enteric, was that of Nursing Sister Kate Clayton, who passed away on June 9th. She was probably better known in the nursing world as Sister Collins, having been for many years Sister at St. Helena Home, Grove End Road, and an early member of the R.B.N.A., on whose General Council she had served. She trained at the General Hospital, Cheltenham, 1880 to 1882 (certificate), and at the Shrewsbury Infirmary, 1882 to 1885 (certificate), and then entered the St. Helena Home. She had a wide and varied nursing experience, which she turned to the fullest account. She was exceptionally clever both as a surgical and as a medical nurse, and very devoted to her work, inspiring her patients with perfect confidence in her professional skill, while winning their affection and respect by her sympathy and untiring care. She held a diploma as midwife, and it was in that capacity that she went to St. Michael's Home at Kimberley to work under Sister Henrietta. Recently she endured all the trials of the siege, and took part in nursing the soldiers. She was asked to transform the Christian Brothers' School into a military hospital, which she did, to the satisfaction of the authorities, and later, when Lord Roberts sent to Kimberley for more nurses, she was among those selected to go up, and there she worked devotedly till she was called away. To those who knew her best it is some consolation that the end came as she would have preferred, and that the summons found her faithful to her post in the grim battle with disease and death.

The death is reported of Army Nursing Sister Sage, in the Welsh Hospital at Springfontein, on June 12th, from dysentery. It only seems the other day since the inhabitants of Taunton wished her God-speed with so much enthusiasm, when she left home to serve in the Welsh Hospital in South Africa.

Miss Sage was for several years a valued nurse in connection with the Taunton District Nursing Association, and upon her departure from the town she was the recipient of a handsome presentation from a large body of working men, who held her services in high appreciation.

The roll of those nurses who have given their lives for their country, in the course of the present war, is becoming a lengthy one. We hope, when peace is restored, that some memorial may mark the places where they rest.

Legal Matters.

ACTION FOR LIBEL BY A BIRMINGHAM NURSE.

MRS. SARAH WRIGHT, described as a nurse, recently gained an action for libel, in the Birmingham County Court, against her late employers, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Richardson, of Westfield, Selly Park. The circumstances were that Mrs. Wright was employed by the defendants as a monthly nurse, and, on leaving, applied for a similar position, giving her late employers as a reference. She subsequently learnt that the reason that she did not obtain this post was on account of the letter written by Mr. Richardson. The points to be noted with regard to this case are that Mr. Richardson, in the letter complained of, stated, "I do not consider her sufficiently qualified." It is noteworthy that no discussion was aroused on this point, presumably because no standard of qualification is defined for, or required of, nurses at the present time. In the case of a medical practitioner in similar circumstances, one of the first questions asked would be whether he were properly qualified or no. In the case of a nurse, the public has no such protection, but any woman, whether trained or untrained, may undertake nursing, and the employer must take the risk as to inefficiency. According to her counsel's statement, Mrs. Wright had earned her livelihood as a monthly nurse for 17 years. He described the defendant's letter as "one of the grossest libels ever levelled at a respectable woman." He, however, made no claim that his client was trained as a nurse; we are, therefore, unable to state whether or not this was the case.

The defence pleaded that the letter was privileged, and, moreover, that its contents were true in substance and in fact. The Judge laid it down that, so long as the defendants only gave the information required of them, the communication was privileged; but if the occasion was used for some wrong, or indirect motive, the defendants were not entitled to privilege. The jury found for the plaintiff, and awarded £40 damages, with costs, and judgment was given to this amount.

WOOLMORE SMITH v. WOOLMORE SMITH AND KING.

SIR FRANCIS JEUNE has granted a judicial separation to the Hon. Frances Mary Woolmore Smith from her husband, Captain John Woolmore Smith, Captain in the Royal Dragoons. It was proved that from June 3rd to September 29th last, Captain Smith and Nurse Louisa King, who had been previously employed to nurse Mrs. Smith, had stayed together in a London hotel. It is to be noted that, in the present disorganized condition of nursing, if Captain Smith, or Miss

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