

Annotations.

THE QUEEN'S NURSES.

MANY Nurses grieved over the statement given such wide publicity by the lay press that no Professional Nurses were in attendance on the Queen during her Passing. But the statement was not true.

Nurse Mary Anne Soal, Queen's Nurse at the Sanatorium at Osborne, was the member of our profession honoured to act as Superintendent of Nursing to the Dying Queen, and directed the devoted personal attendants in the performance of those gentle ministrations which were all that the condition of her late Majesty required. Watching, tending, feeding, there was little more that love and devotion could do, and her bereaved family, her trusted physicians, and personal attendants, were with her night and day.

The dear Queen made a beautiful and painless end, and within a few minutes of death recognised the best beloved of her family. No death could have been more peaceful. According to medical opinion the Death of the Queen was due to cerebral failure. Transient but recurring symptoms of apathy and torpor, with aphasic indications, gave great uneasiness to her physicians a few days before the final illness. From Saturday, January 19, until the end these symptoms grew steadily graver, but the heart's action was maintained throughout, and the temperature was normal.

MOURNING FOR THE QUEEN.

Our profession is anxious to show its sorrow for the death of the Queen by some token of mourning. What can this be? It is impossible that uniform should be altered, or that anything but washing dresses should be worn in the sick room. The question having been referred to us, after some consideration we came to the conclusion that the neatest mark of mourning which nurses can adopt is a rosette of dull mourning ribbon, or crape, worn, when indoors, pinned on to the bib of the apron, on the left side, and out of doors on the cloak. This seems to meet the requirements of the case. A word of caution is necessary, namely, that the present occasion is a unique one, and one of national mourning, and all patients will understand the natural desire to wear some outward token of the universal sorrow.

But it would be quite out of place if these rosettes were worn as indications of personal bereavement, and we feel sure that the taste of nurses will prevent their obtruding their private sorrows upon their patients. Nurses will be glad to know that these rosettes, surmounted by a neat crown and V.R., in gilt, can be obtained from Messrs. Garrould, 150, Edgware Road, and Messrs. Debenham and Freebody, of Wigmore Street, also make rosettes to order, and supply the crape or cloth band for the arm, or a bar of ribbon for pinning on to the apron.

THE LESSON OF THE QUEEN'S LIFE.

With every circumstance of pomp and homage Queen Victoria is to be laid to rest, and the nation which mourns her recognizes in the splendid pageant arranged a fitting tribute to the memory of a Queen as great as she was good. What is the lesson to be learnt from the life of the dead Queen? Surely the capacity of women for responsibility. It may be said that the Queen was an exceptional woman, but it is urged with equal justice that Her Majesty had exceptional opportunities, and it in no way detracts from the dignity with which she fulfilled the duties of her high office to recognise this truth. It is noteworthy that women who have been entrusted with responsibility have rarely failed in the fulfilment of their trust, and the qualities of heart and mind so conspicuous in the Queen are those which in lesser degree have been characteristic also of her women subjects charged with public duties. Devotion to duty, a high sense of honour, truthfulness, tact, and sympathy, these are qualities which women bring to bear upon public affairs, and they are qualities which are needed in the public service. We are not slow to recognize the beneficent and world wide influence exerted by the Queen, and this influence was rooted in the characteristics she possessed by reason of her womanhood. The Queen's life has been an object lesson in woman's capacity, and the best gift of the nation in acknowledgment of the beneficence of her reign would be to remove the disabilities under which British women suffer, and to give them the right to share in making laws they are required to keep. It can never again be urged with the remembrance of Queen Victoria in the national heart, that public duties should be withheld from women on the ground of their inability to discharge them.

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