

THE LATE MRS. PORTER.

WE are greatly indebted to a kind correspondent for providing us with a photograph and some details concerning this very interesting old lady, of whom a contemporary, *The Scotsman*, remarks:—

“By the death of Mrs. Porter, Staff Nurse in Professor Annandale's Wards in the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, there has just been removed one who for many years has been a notable figure on the Hospital Staff of that Institution. She had been for nearly fifty years connected with the Infirmary, having been Staff Nurse to Professor Syme and Professor Lister, before she received



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the corresponding appointment under Professor Annandale. It was with her almost a boast that she had seen every Surgical Professor now in the Infirmary, growing up in the Wards as Student or Dresser. Mrs. Porter was a general favourite with the professional men with whom her duties brought her into contact, and her sitting-room was a veritable photographic portrait-gallery of the Medical men who had passed through the Institution during her time, and many of whom are now leading members of their profession. For some time past she had been in rather feeble health, but she stuck bravely to her duties, and in the end, as it proved, she was able to realise

her often-expressed wish to die in harness. She expired on Monday forenoon rather suddenly after assisting at a dressing. It was remarked as rather a striking circumstance that on the daily calendar in her sitting-room the last motto disclosed was this:—‘Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.’”

Mrs. Porter (our correspondent remarks) was a sort of connecting link between the old school of Nursing and the new, and combined in herself the best features of both.

Years ago she was offered a retiring allowance, but refused it, feeling that to give up her beloved work would be to her to give up life itself. She was eighty years of age, and her wish to die at duty has been mercifully granted her.

Her quaint and pithy remarks, her beautiful rosy face, and kind motherly ways, will long be remembered by the many patients who have passed through her hands, as well as by the crowd of Doctors and Nurses who have grown up around her.

OBSTETRIC NURSING.

— BY OBSTETRICA, M.B.N.A. —

PART I.—MATERNAL.

CHAPTER V.—DUTIES DURING CONVALESCENCE.

(Continued from page 99.)

I HAVE so recently directed you (No. 96, *Nursing Record*) how to wash and change the patient, I need not repeat the instructions, as they hold good so long as the lady is unable to rise from the bed; but on this occasion you will most likely be ordered to give your patient an antiseptic vaginal douche, and I must now tell you how to do this. You will require a bed bath, as it is called, for that purpose, made of similar material to other baths, about eighteen inches long, rounded at both ends, and narrowed in the middle, something fiddle fashion. It is usual to put a flannel covering over the bath before you use it, and sometimes they have pads at the ends and are made “smart,” but I do not recommend anything of a “fixed” arrangement, but think a piece of soft flannel, put over loose, and removed and washed every time the bath is used, preferable in a sanitary sense to more artistic (?) contrivances. You will require three pints of warm water for the bath, into which you will pour the antiseptic you are directed to use. We will assume it is a Condy course, and in that case we will go on with Condy all through. Now what amount of Condy are you going to put to that amount of water? The divergence of Medical

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