

THE PASSING BELL.

LOUISA TWINING.

By the death of Miss Louisa Twining, which took place on September 26th, in London, one of the great social reformers of the nineteenth century has passed away. Her name was a household word throughout the Poor Law world, and to her keen foresight, enormous energy, and practical mind, much of the reform in the conduct of institutions governed by it, must be granted, especially in alleviating the terrible suffering inflicted through ignorance, of the sick in workhouses and infirmaries. When first she began, half a century ago, to visit such institutions—lady guardians and trained nursing were unknown. How terrible was the condition of the inmates few of us can now realise, and to Miss Twining's devotion to bettering their condition, much of the marvellous improvement now apparent throughout the country must for ever be gratefully ascribed.

It would require many columns to describe in detail the wonderful life's work of Louisa Twining; suffice it to say that she published in 1855 a pamphlet "A Few Words about the Inmates of our Union Workhouses," and in 1857 contributed a paper to the Social Science Congress in Birmingham on "The Condition of our Workhouses," the majority of which she had visited up and down the land. In 1858 she attacked the Nursing question in a letter to the *Times*, and in 1859 organised the Workhouse Visiting Society. Later came the Workhouse Infirmaries Nursing Society, with a view (1) to raising the standard of public opinion on the whole question of workhouse nursing, (2) to securing the appointment of trained ladies as matrons in all separate infirmaries, and (3) to training and supplying nurses to workhouse infirmaries in London and the provinces. Miss Twining accepted the post of hon. Secretary, subsequently becoming one of the Vice-Presidents. The training of nurses was carried on by the Association until 1900, the number which it had so trained and supplied up to that date being 844. In cholera nursing and district nursing she also took an active interest, and until the day of her death never ceased to work for the happiness of her kind.

The funeral of this truly great woman took place on Saturday last at Kensal Green Cemetery, and amongst those who attended were the President of the Local Government Board, and representatives of the Central Poor Law Committee, the Women's Local Government Society, and the Midwives Institute.

£1,500 FOR A NURSE.

Mr. Francis Albert Reddie, of Brockenhurst, Hants, and Great St. Helens, E.C., East India merchant, has bequeathed £1,500 to Miss Rose Boakes, in recognition of her successful nursing of him during a dangerous illness at Bombay in 1907.

NURSING ECHOES.

Although the subscription list for the Nurses' International Memorial to Miss Nightingale is not yet opened, we have to thank Miss Beatrice Kent for sending, with her usual generosity, £1 towards it. The charming illustration on page 276 is reproduced from a photograph taken by Miss Downing, secretary of the School Nurses' League, at Kaiserswerth. The window draped with ribbons of British colours denotes the room used by Miss Nightingale during her visits there, and is in the block now used as the Seminary for teachers, over which Sister Julie Borges presides. For many years Sister Julie occupied Miss Nightingale's room.

Miss Christina Forrest most kindly sends £2 to the funds of the Society for State Registration, for which we intend to make a special appeal, so that in the near future this question may be publicly and persistently agitated. Experience proves that absolutely nothing is to be gained by waiting for the Government to take the initiative on questions which affect the well-being of women. Our Bill has now been before Parliament for ten years. We have pleaded constitutionally and with "perfect propriety" quite long enough. We must now make ourselves heard. When all is said and done, the Registration of Nurses is not merely a woman's question, it is a question of national health, and must be fought for as such.

There has been a movement amongst Poor Law officials in London for the institution of a central examination for nurses trained in Poor Law institutions, and at the meeting at Southport, last Saturday, of the North-Western Poor Law District Conference, Mr. R. A. Leach, clerk to the Rochdale Union, read a paper on "Co-operation between Boards of Guardians." Mr. Leach urged that a standard curriculum for workhouse nurses should be established. In Lancashire alone, he said, there were 600 probationers in training as nurses, and the number was on the increase. There was no standard curriculum or examination or certificate for these probationers.

We are all in favour of standardising nursing education and examinations, but we are not at all sure—neither are the Poor Law infirmaries matrons we have consulted—that the definition of a standard and special examination for Poor Law nurses is a wise step to take. The Bill

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