

## THE PASSING BELL.

By the death of Lady Alicia Blackwood, widow of the Rev. James Blackwood, D.D., LL.D., in her 95th year, there has passed away another of the little band of Miss Nightingale's co-workers in the Crimea. When Dr. Blackwood enrolled himself as an Army Chaplain, Lady Alicia put herself at Miss Nightingale's disposal, and devoted herself to the care of the soldiers' wives, of whom between 200 and 300 were found in the basement of the barrack hospital at Scutari, living under conditions of the greatest misery.

We regret to record the death of a probationer at St. Bartholomew's Hospital (Miss Elizabeth Teyphena Lewis), under peculiarly sad circumstances. She had only entered the hospital on July 21st, and on the morning of Wednesday, July 30th, she was missed from her ward; and on enquiry being made was found dead in a bath in the Nurses' Home. At the inquest held on the following day, it was stated that her mouth and nose were above water; and Dr. Couchman stated that he found food in the air-passages. In his opinion, the nurse went to have a hot bath after a meal, fainted, and regurgitated some food which blocked the larynx and asphyxiated her. Miss Lewis' father complained that there was no bell in the bath-room; and the doctor said that he did not think a bell would have been of use, as the deceased nurse must have become suddenly unconscious. The question of bells was, however, being considered by the committee.

No doubt the question of bells in the bath-rooms, with other details, should be considered by the committee. But so long as those responsible for the lives of the nurses at St. Bartholomew's Hospital are content that they should be housed in the disreputable and scattered tenements over which it is impossible to keep effective supervision, just so long every woman who enters there runs the risk of accidents; and it may be death by fire. We have said before that the Nurses' Home at St. Bartholomew's Hospital is a disgrace to civilization; and it is high time that such an evidence of heartless incapacity in the management of a charitable institution should receive the condemnation it deserves.

Many nurses will learn with regret of the death of Miss Helen Campbell Norman, R.R.C., second daughter of the late Field Marshal Sir Henry Norman, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., C.I.E. Miss Norman was for many years Lady Superintendent of Netley Hospital, and head of the Army Nursing Service. She died at Gunnar, Teneriffe.

Much sorrow has on all sides been expressed at the death of Miss Douglas, of the Bristol and Clifton District Nurses' Society. Miss Douglas, who was greatly beloved and revered by her patients, and a large circle of friends, was laid to rest at Arno's Vale Cemetery, Bedminster. A large number of the nurses were present.

## NURSING ECHOES.

A morning grey with a suggestion of Scotch mist made those who know how well the Kingston Hill Infirmary garden lends itself to a function somewhat down-hearted. For an invitation to the annual party there is not to be refused by any who have had the opportunity of seeing that well appointed Infirmary and its well ordered Nurses.

Miss Annie Smith, the Matron, is to be congratulated on the success of her efforts on behalf of patients, nurses and public alike.

It was indeed a pleasure to see gathered together the Chairman of the Board of Guardians and various members of that body appreciating the work of their staff, past and present, by spending an afternoon with them, indicating that where there is a will there is a way of dealing with the seamy side of life without increasing its unpleasantness, and of uniting again those who have worked under its roof.

What greater pleasure can nurses have than from time to time to re-visit the scene of their early labours.

There were games galore, Clock Golf, Miniature Archery, Miniature Rifle Range, Croquet, Tennis, by which old friends might vie with one another on the lighter side of life, to say nothing of cups of tea and cakes over which to gossip.

Dr. Donald though somewhat late in appearing on the scenes was warmly greeted by former pupils, as a friend who in early and struggling days had smoothed many a hard technical task to those who would take a good place in the Nursing profession.

Over the tea and cakes Members of the League of Kingston Infirmary Nurses told one another what they had done after leaving their Alma Mater and how much they owed her for from time to time giving them the opportunity of again visiting her.

The time just flew all too quickly as one and another returned to duty, and guests departed to the strains of "God save the King."

On Wednesday, July 30th, the Weston-super-Mare Branch of the National Union of Trained Nurses, spent a very pleasant afternoon at Clevedon by the kind invitation of Miss Henry, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Society. There was a good gathering of nurses and friends at the New Pier at Weston at 2.15, and the party left by motor char-a-banc for Clevedon by way of Worle, Congresbury and Yatton, several members being called for on the way. Miss Henry received her

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