

## A GREAT PROFESSIONAL LOSS.

It is with sorrow, which will be widely shared, that we announce the death of Miss Maude A. Buckingham, Matron of the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, and of the 2nd Birmingham War Hospital, Hollymoor, Northfield, near Birmingham. Miss Buckingham had not been well for some months past, and on Thursday, December 2nd, underwent an operation, which was successfully performed by Dr. Furneaux Jordan. Unfortunately, symptoms of heart failure became apparent, and she succumbed to a heart attack at 4 a.m. on the morning of Saturday, December 4th.

It is difficult at present to estimate the extent of the loss the nursing profession has sustained by Miss Buckingham's death. She was one of the Matrons who realised her obligations to the public, and to her profession as a whole, and spared no pains to fulfil them.

Miss M. A. Buckingham was trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, taking a distinguished place in her final examination. After holding an appointment in Scarborough for a short time, she was appointed Matron of the Rotherham Hospital and Dispensary, a position she held for five years. In 1907 she was appointed, out of 64 candidates, to the position of Matron at the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, where she gained the reputation of an excellent organiser, and was held in the highest esteem by the administrative medical, nursing, and domestic staffs. The excellent professional standing of the nursing staff is largely due to her personal efficiency and organising ability and this was so well recognised that when the organisation of the Rubery and Hollymoor War Hospitals was decided on she was invited by the military authorities to act as Matron of both, though finally it was arranged that she should take up duty at Hollymoor only, obtaining leave of absence for this purpose from the Committee of the Queen's Hospital.

Full of life and professional zeal, able, charming, widely respected, and held in high esteem, Miss Buckingham appears to have been one of the Matrons

who could least be spared, and her death at the early age of 41 must be a shock to her wide circle of friends.

She was a member of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, a Vice-President of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, a member of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, the Founder and President of the Queen's Hospital (Birmingham) Nurses' League, in connection with which a *League Journal*—in the production of which she took great interest—is a paper showing considerable literary ability.

Since the passing of the National Insurance Act Miss Buckingham had studied the question of insurance, and was a much-valued member of the Committee of the Trained Women Nurses' Friendly Society, frequently coming up from Birmingham to London to attend its meetings, when her advice was often of great assistance owing to the knowledge she possessed of the subject of insurance.

To the nursing staff of the Queen's Hospital we offer our sincere sympathy in their bereavement, as well as to the League deprived so early of the guidance of its Founder and much-loved President.

The funeral takes place at Kensal Green Cemetery at 3 o'clock on Thursday, December 9th. A service was held in the chapel at the Second Birmingham War Hospital, Hollymoor, on Tuesday at 1 o'clock, after which the body was brought by road to London.

Amongst those attending the service at Kensal Green are Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland; Mrs. Walter Spencer, representing the Matrons' Council; Miss Cox Davies, President of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses; Miss Beatrice Cutler, its Hon. Secretary, who is also Vice-President of the Trained Women Nurses' Friendly Society; we understand that Miss Becher, Matron-in-Chief, Q.A.I.M.N.S., hopes to be present.

Amongst the flowers sent, a lovely wreath from the President and Members of the Matrons' Council, consisted of Cycus leaf, with a large cluster of Madame Chatenay roses and asparagus



MISS MAUDE A. BUCKINGHAM.

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