

sent by the relatives there were conspicuous a wreath of white lilies, camellias and pale pink carnations sent by Mr. Charles Hyde, Chairman of the Queen's Hospital; a cushion of white chrysanthemums from the Resident Medical Staff, and beautiful wreaths from the nursing staff, the secretarial and dispensary staff, a floral anchor from the domestic staff, and a wreath from the porters and engineering staff.

The Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, Nurses' League sent a chaplet of laurels, with white lilies, hyacinths, and violets, bearing a knot and streamers of the League colours (blue and white), "In loving sympathy to our beloved President, from the members at home and abroad of the Queen's Hospital Nurses' League."

The General Hospital, Birmingham, Nurses' League, sent a wreath of croton leaves and bronze chrysanthemums, "In deep sympathy with our colleagues at the Queen's."

A beautiful full-length cross composed of pink carnations, white lilies and asparagus fern came from the nursing staff of the 2nd Birmingham War Hospital, where Miss Buckingham was Matron at the time of her death, and the South African Staff of the 1st and 2nd War Hospitals sent a wreath of white lilies and chrysanthemums tied with the yellow and green colours of the Union. The Resident Medical Officers of both hospitals and the Sergeants' Mess of the 2nd Birmingham War Hospital also sent wreaths.

Others from Birmingham were from Miss Thomas, of the Dudley Road Infirmary (composed of pink carnations, white chrysanthemums and maidenhair fern) from Lieut.-Colonel Ellis (of dark brown leaves, white chrysanthemums and Madame Chatenay roses tied with white satin), from Miss Bodley, Matron of Selly Oak Infirmary, Mrs. Jordan Lloyd, Dr. and Mrs. Harold Pound, and others.

The Matron-in-Chief and members of Q.A.I.M.N.S. sent a beautiful chaplet of palm leaves, white lilies, and scarlet geraniums; the Matrons' Council, one of cypress leaf, lilies and roses; the Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses, a chaplet of laurels with deep pink chrysanthemums and sprays of heath; the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, a wreath of choice white flowers tied with the black and white colours of the hospital.

A lovely wreath was also sent by Miss Florence Watkey from the Military Hospital, Whitchurch.

As we withdrew from the graveside leaving our colleague surrounded by these lovely tokens of affection and respect, and sorrowing for the life cut short, as it seemed, so prematurely, we thought of the words of the poet:—

"Blow out you bugles over the rich dead;
There's none of these so lonely and so poor or old
But, dying, has made us rarer gifts than gold."

AN APPRECIATION.

Miss Musson, Matron of the General Hospital, Birmingham, writes:—"At the beginning of 1909, when the Territorial Force Nursing Service was inaugurated, Miss Buckingham offered her

services as Organizing Matron, and as soon as she was appointed, threw herself with enthusiasm into the work of enrolling the necessary Sisters and Nurses. She resigned the position of Principal Matron (as the organizing Matron is now called) in the summer of 1913, but was permitted by H.M. Queen Alexandra to retain the Badge of the Service in recognition of her admirable work. After the outbreak of war she was naturally anxious to take part in the work of caring for the sick and wounded, and when the Rubery and Hollymoor Asylums were opened in May, under the name of the "1st and 2nd Birmingham War Hospitals," Miss Buckingham offered her services to the War Office and was appointed Matron of Hollymoor, with the permission of her Committee who granted her leave of absence from the Queen's Hospital.

Although her health was not of the best, she devoted herself to the work of organizing the new Hospital with all her usual energy and determination, and would not admit that it was too great a strain. In these strenuous times, the workers in one Hospital see but little of the workers in another, and few of her friends were aware of her illness, so that the news of her death came as a great shock both to them and to the Nursing Staff at the Queen's Hospital, by whom she was much beloved.

As a member of the Midland Association of Matrons and Lady Superintendents, Miss Buckingham did much to enliven their meetings by her gaiety, her excellently delivered little speeches, and by her readiness to express her opinion, whether in agreement with, or in opposition to the majority.

Those who came into intimate touch with Miss Buckingham will always remember her charming personality. Exceedingly attractive in appearance, possessed of a delightful speaking voice, and with a keen sense of humour, she was extremely quick in thought, coming quickly to a decision, and acting upon it as soon as made. She was wont to work on original lines, rather than to follow the beaten track, which trait made her most useful when some new undertaking was on foot. In her hospital she never spared herself, and personally superintended even the smallest details; she tried, both by precept and example, to instil into her probationers a high ideal of professional work and conduct. Anyone in trouble or difficulty could always rely on finding a kind friend in Miss Buckingham; she gave the personal as well as practical help, which is the best form of charity. Busy as was her life, she appeared to have plenty of time to help a 'lame dog' over the proverbial stile when need arose, and many patients, as well as Nurses, will hold her in grateful and affectionate remembrance.

To her country, and to the hospitals with which she was connected, the loss at this time of so experienced and capable a Matron is a very great one; in Birmingham, her pupils and colleagues alike feel that much brightness and life have gone from their midst with the charming presence of Maude Buckingham."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)