

## THE PASSING BELL.

We regret to record the death of Miss Angelique Lucelle Pringle, best known in the nursing world for her work as Lady Superintendent of Nurses at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, a position she held with distinction for fifteen years, during the later decades of the last century.

Miss Pringle was trained at St. Thomas's Hospital, in the Nightingale Training School for Nurses, and was honoured with the friendship of Miss Florence Nightingale. When, in the early seventies, the Managers of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, who realised the urgent need of the reorganisation of their nursing and domestic departments, applied to the Nightingale School for a Lady Superintendent of Nurses, and several highly qualified nurses were sent to Edinburgh as candidates for the post, Miss Pringle was selected to fill the position, at the early age of 27, and did so with conspicuous success. The removal of the patients from the old to the present Infirmary in 1879 was a test of her organising ability, and was very successfully carried through. She was not only an efficient administrator, but a charming personality, at once firm, gentle, and loveable.

After fifteen years' service at Edinburgh Miss Pringle was recalled to St. Thomas's Hospital as Matron, but resigned after a brief tenure of office, owing to her reception into the Roman Church. Even those who regret her action will realise her sincerity of purpose, for there are comparatively few women in these self-seeking days who would resign the position of Matron of St. Thomas's Hospital and accept posts of lesser importance for conscience sake. When, therefore, we meet with one who has sacrificed material things in obedience to the promptings of her spiritual nature, let us respect and honour the impulse.

Miss Pringle died at Musselburgh, on the Firth of Forth, leaving an honourable record as a pioneer in nursing reform, and as a gracious and honourable gentlewoman.—R.I.P.

## IN THE EARLY EIGHTIES.

The Editor of this JOURNAL well remembers her first interview with this charming woman. It was in the early eighties. When in Edinburgh she called upon Miss Pringle, at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, and was ushered into her office.

"Take a chair," she said, smiling. "Do you wish to enter for training?"

We smiled also, and explained we were Matron of Bart's.

Then we had a hearty laugh together.

"Oh, what a pity!" said Miss Pringle; "I should like you for a probationer."

"It is," we replied; "I should like you for a Matron."

Miss Pringle attended several meetings on Registration in the early days of its inception, but the Bonham-Carter and St. Thomas's influence were dead against it, so she dropped out; but she was always kind and tolerant in discussing what were, in those far-off days, considered Bolshevik propensities.

## WHERE IS THE MONEY TO COME FROM?

In reply to our enquiry as to whether the College of Nursing is to be erected with money collected from the public for the sick and wounded, Sir Robert A. Hudson, G.B.E., Chairman of the Joint Finance Committee of the British Red Cross Society, and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England, writes: "The project to which you refer is not being financed from the Joint Fund of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John."

We made the enquiry because of the following statement in the sixth annual report of the Executive Committee of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust submitted at Dunfermline on February 25th. After stating that the Trust had promised a grant of £40,000 for the erection or purchase of an institute in connection with a Central Council of Infant and Child Welfare, established through the efforts of the Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, Chairman of the British Red Cross Society, the report continued:—

"Since the Trust's offer was made to the Council, the Red Cross Society have proposed to erect, or purchase, a very large building which would house the following activities:—(a) V.A.D. and Red Cross work; (b) a tuberculosis centre; (c) a college of nursing; (d) the central welfare work for which the Trust's grant would be available. The executive committee have agreed to this proposal on condition that a distinct wing is provided for the purposes of the Central Institute."

## DOWN WITH DOLES.

It is some satisfaction to know that after ignoring the War Charities Act for some weeks, the *Daily Telegraph* has been compelled to conform to it, and insert the announcement daily that its fund for "Our Nurses" is "Registered under the War Charities Act, 1916."

The Editor of the *D.T.* republishes daily quotes from the employers' press, such as the *Nursing Mirror*, and *Hospital*, both edited by a late Financial Secretary of the Stock Exchange, who can no more claim to represent nursing opinion than can *Tit-Bits* or a penny novelette!

A public-spirited nurse who remonstrated with Lord Burnham for his intolerable patronage of her profession received an answer to the effect that nurses need not resent the *D.T.* appeal as Lord Haig was begging for needy officers. We hope this lady replied that Lord Haig is not appealing for Shilling Doles from the rank and file of the Army and Navy for their officers, as Lord Burnham is doing in the name of professional nurses. But apparently any sort of dole is good enough for the "hired nuss." It is amazing that several of the so-called leading training schools should take the lead in this most offensive charity campaign. It will surely take the General Nursing Councils some time to raise Nursing from the invidious position it has been placed in by the College of Nursing, Ltd., and to eliminate this deplorable spirit of almstaking from its members. We greatly hope, if ethical standards are defined, that begging from patients and the public generally will be distinctly forbidden.

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