

Hospital, Manchester, and at the Southport Infirmary. She has been Staff Nurse at Bolton Infirmary, and at the District Infirmary, Ashton-under-Lyne, and has had experience of private nursing.

HEAD NURSE.

Kendal Poor Law Institution, Kendal.—Miss Margaret Isabella Paterson has been appointed Head Nurse. She was trained at the Wirral Union Infirmary, Birkenhead, and has been Ward Sister at a Liverpool Poor Law Infirmary, Night Superintendent at Stockport Union Infirmary, Ward Sister and Night Superintendent at Wirral Union Infirmary, and Sister at Toxteth Park Infirmary, Liverpool.

SCHOOL NURSE.

Norfolk Education Committee.—Miss Maud Hannant has been appointed School Nurse. She was trained at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, and at the Jenny Lind Hospital, Norwich.

Bedfordshire Education Committee.—Mrs. M. G. Beattie has been appointed School Nurse. She was trained at St. Pancras South Infirmary, and has been Staff Nurse at Mount Vernon Hospital, Hampstead, and School Nurse in the Borough of Luton.

THE PASSING BELL.

The interment of Sister Miriam Howell, the sister-in-charge of the operating theatres at the Middlesex Hospital, to which we briefly alluded last week, and who died suddenly at her post on December 16th of heart failure, took place at Brookwood Cemetery on the 22nd inst.

The first part of the service (which was choral) was conducted in the Hospital Chapel by the Rev. E. S. Merriman (chaplain), assisted by the Rev. J. P. Collet. Among those present were: Mr. A. Howell (brother), Mr. Howell (nephew) and Mrs. Howell, the Earl of Athlone (Chairman of the Hospital), the Dowager Countess Brassey, Colonel the Hon. George Keppel, Mr. George Cunningham and Mr. Richard C. Davis (representing the Board), Sir Alfred Pearce Gould, Mr. John Murray (senior surgeon) and other members of the surgical staff, Mr. Walter Kewley (secretary-superintendent), Miss Montgomery (lady superintendent), Miss Lloyd-Still (Matron of St. Thomas's Hospital), the Sisters of the Hospital, many of the Nursing Staff, and representatives of other departments, including the Medical School.

A number of beautiful wreaths were sent by the Board of Governors, the honorary Medical and Surgical Staff, and all the various departments of the hospital. Specially noticeable was a beautiful cross from past and present members of the nursing staff.

A WORD FOR THE WEEK.

If you were busy being kind,
Before you know it you would find
You'd soon forget to think 'twas true
That someone was unkind to you.

If you were busy being glad,
And cheering people who are sad,
Although your heart might ache a bit,
You'd soon forget to notice it.

—Pacific Coast Journal.

TWO YEARS' EXPERIENCE IN ITALY.

In the spring of 1914 I was asked to go and help train Italian girls to nurse as we do in England. I set out with a friend, and duly arrived at Florence.

The Hospital which was to be our destination was of the very oldest, known as "The Ospedale Santa Maria Nuova." It is, perhaps, interesting to note that the first nurse there was one who attended or waited on Beatrice (the innamorata of the immortal Dante).

There were some 1,000 beds in all. Wards being divided up into various clinics, in charge of so many professors. One of them kindly gave over to us two septic wards, male and female. I think there was a good deal of wonderment as to how we should manage, &c.; nursing had never been carried out by any but partly trained people. There was a certain class of the Community of Nuns who had undergone so much training, but they only supervised, the actual nursing being done by men or women who were quite uneducated. Their wards were most ill kept; no screens ever used; all treatment, &c., being public and open to all, as one may suppose.

No charts or head boards were kept. All temperatures recorded in a book kept for that purpose. Medicines, pills, &c., kept on each patient's locker, when they would be taken whenever the patient wished. The matron would come round daily to see if the stock needed replenishing. If a patient was on a milk diet, two or three small bottles would be left by the matron night and morning, or eggs, if allowed; they were usually taken raw.

Each locker had a chamber always kept there, sanitary arrangements being dreadful.

When a death occurred in the ward everyone could see. What seemed to me rather surprising was that as soon as a patient died, the sheet was thrown over the face and patient carried away—no laying out or even washing being performed. No treatment, as regards dressings after operations, was ever done in the ward, patients being taken to a dressing room (Medicheria) no matter how ill they were.

A Professor in charge of the ward used to come round twice a day, usually as early as 7.30 a.m., and again at 6 p.m. On entering the ward, Sister would hand him the book, and if there were any patients for operation the following day, you would be ordered to give a purge, also enema, the next morning; he also added not to forget the bath! This order used to make me very indignant. The majority of patients disliked very much this order; it was always most difficult to persuade them to have baths at all.

After three months I was able to take my own ward, when I was better able to master the language; no one, not even the doctors, being able to understand a word of English. The Italian girls proved really quite intelligent, and learnt quickly. They were very young, some of them only 18. The difficulty was to make

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