

THE LATE MISS E. M. JONES, OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

We recorded briefly with the deepest regret the death of Miss Elizabeth Mary Jones—which occurred at her home, 7, St. Mary's Place, Shrewsbury, on Thursday, April 6th—in our issue of April 15th, but we are only too pleased to find space for further reference to her fine services to the sick and to her profession.

Miss Jones was appointed Inspector to the Local Government Board (now Ministry of Health) in June, 1910, when she resigned her position as Matron of the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, which office she had held for ten years. She thus brought vast knowledge and a wealth of experience to bear upon her work for the sick poor and the children chargeable to the Poor Law; her district included Wales and some of the adjoining English counties; she spoke Welsh fluently, which greatly helped her in the inspection of children boarded out in the country districts of Wales.

Miss Jones was a woman of culture, and was greatly interested in literature and art, especially Italian art; the leading features of her character were humility and self-forgetfulness, her work was always so quietly done that few realised its magnitude.

She was laid to rest in the family grave at Eglwyswen, Denbigh, on Monday, April 10th.

"Through such souls, God, stooping, sheds His Light into this world."

AN APPRECIATION BY ONE OF HER OLD NURSES.

After two years' training at the Children's Hospital, Pendlebury, Miss Jones entered the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, in December, 1889. She was appointed Sister of Mr. Parker's female ward at the opening of the new Royal Infirmary. In 1895 she became Night Superintendent, and in the following year Assistant Matron.

In 1900 she was appointed Matron and Superintendent of the Training School, which post she held until 1910, when she was appointed as Inspector for Wales and some of the Western Counties under the Local Government Board, now the Ministry of Health. One of the outstanding points in Miss Jones's character was her great faculty for discovering the good in other people and for making them wish to live up to the high opinion she had of them. This was the secret of her great personal influence over the nurses she trained. One could never imagine her harbouring any petty grudge or resentment. The high place she won for herself was held with true humility and was never used for her own personal advancement.

When off duty she could at once throw off the cares of office and interest herself in the great questions of the day, the private interests of her friends, and the beautiful things of life. Those who knew and loved her feel sure that she has only passed on to a fuller and happier life, where she will have still greater scope for the use of all her splendid gifts.

REPORT OF COMMISSION OF INQUIRY.

The Commission of Inquiry into the charges of brutality to patients at the Long Grove Mental Hospital, Epsom, Surrey, finished its work on the 25th ult., when the chairman announced that the allegations had no foundation. The inquiry was the result of allegations of "systematic cruelty" by a former patient.

BUREAUCRACY AT THE OFFICE OF THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL.

On March 25th the *Lancet* published an inspired paragraph in support of the new rules (the effect of which has already proved so disastrous to the status of the nursing profession) and gave its benediction to the shoddy methods of compiling our Register—which 9 (A) is calculated to effect—and incidentally to the establishment of bureaucratic control by the Registrar in the compilation of the Register. The inspired paragraph included the following misleading statement:—"It has also been suggested that speed would be gained if the Registrar, as the responsible Government official, were to list all applicants conforming to the regulations laid down by the Council for admission to the Register, this list to be submitted for approval to the Registration Committee, the papers of applicants whose qualifications for registration appeared questionable, being reserved for individual scrutiny by the Committee."

This has been the practice in the past with the additional safeguard of scrutiny by persons appointed by Parliament to issue a correct Register. The system now adopted is the delegation of the statutory duties of the Council to a salaried official of the Council (who is not a responsible Government official) specially empowered to pass *without submitting for the approval of the Registration Committee the papers of applicants, who are, in her judgment, qualified for registration*, which papers the Registration Committee is commanded to recommend to the Council for approval without any knowledge of, or inspection of, an applicant's professional qualifications or personal references! Thus, the Registrar, and not the Registration Committee, composed of members of the Council, decides who is and who is not eligible for Registration! The now notorious Rule 9 (A) also provides that the Registrar may accept applicants on second-hand evidence without their producing the training certificate, or even a duly certified copy thereof! A scandalous betrayal, in our opinion, of the interests of the nursing profession and the public, by the majority of the General Nursing Council, which, in failing to perform its statutory duties, shows a lamentable lack of the responsibility attached to the national work they were appointed to perform.

On April 8th, the *Lancet* published the following letter from Councillor Beatrice Kent.

SIR,—It surprises and disappoints me greatly to learn that the Editor of an important journal like *The*

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