

THE PASSING BELL.

The death of Miss Caroline Lloyd, of the Nursing Sisters of St. John the Divine, on September 19th, in her 98th year, carries back the minds of those conversant with the history of the nursing pioneers to the foundation of the Sisterhood of St. John the Evangelist in 1848, for so many years located at St. John's House, in Norfolk Street, Strand, W.C. Miss Lloyd entered the House as a pupil in 1868, and was elected its Superior by the Council in 1872. Both King's College and Charing Cross Hospitals were nursed by the Sisterhood, and district nursing was also undertaken in the neighbourhood, and the distribution of free dinners given by the Serving Brothers of St. John of Jerusalem.

It is well known in the nursing world how the Sisters left St. John's House and established themselves as the Nursing Sisters of St. John the Divine at Drayton Gardens, South Kensington, and lastly at Lewisham; in all this Miss Lloyd took an active part, and, indeed, to the end retained much of her mental vigour and bodily powers. She was an Associate of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, and a very remarkable personality. A woman of high spirit and virility—of which type we meet but few in these degenerate times.

HOSPITAL WORLD.

Princess Mary, Viscountess Lascelles, will visit Newcastle on November 24th to open the new maternity hospital in the City Road, and will be the guest of the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland at Alnwick Castle.

The lectures by Mr. E. A. Webb at St. Bartholomew the Great, Smithfield, on the work of restoration at that church will be delivered on Saturdays, October 13th and 27th, at 2.30 p.m.

The freedom of Edinburgh was conferred on Lord Novar, Secretary for Scotland, last week, in recognition of his eminent services to Scotland and the Empire. Lord Provost Sir Thomas Hutchison presided at the ceremony, which took place in the Usher Hall.

As Sir Ronald Munro-Ferguson, Lord Novar earned the gratitude of all members of the Society for State Registration, as for many sessions he had charge of their Bill in Parliament and extended to them the utmost courtesy and kindness.

Viscountess Novar will lay the foundation-stone of the Hospice for women and children, to be erected in Edinburgh in memory of the late Dr. Elsie Inglis, on St. Luke's Day, October 18th.

COMING EVENTS.

October 5th.—Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council. 431, Oxford Street, London, W. 4.30 p.m.

October 6th.—Scottish Nurses' Club. 203, Bath Street, Glasgow. A Cake and Candy Sale, with fruit, flowers, vegetables, &c. 2 p.m.

October 12th.—Nurses' Missionary League. Valdictory Meetings. University Hall, Gordon Square. 10.30 a.m. to 9.30 p.m.

BOOK OF THE WEEK.

THE END OF THE HOUSE OF ALARD.*

"There are Alards buried in Winchlesea Church; they lie in the south side on their altar tombs, with lions at their feet. At least one of them went to the Crusades, and lies there cross-legged—the first Gervase Alard, Admiral of the Cinque Ports and Bailiff of Winchlesea, a man of mighty stature.

In the fifteenth century the family had begun to dwindle; its power was passing into the hands of the Oxenbridges, who, when the heiress of the main line married an Oxenbridge, adopted the Alard arms, the lion within a border charged with scallop shells. Thus the trunk ended, but a branch of the William Alards had settled early in the sixteenth century at Conster Manor, near the village of Leasan, about eight miles from Winchlesea. Their shield was argent, three bars gules, on a canton azure a leopard's head or."

When the story opens the head of the family was Sir John Alard. "He had passed for a buck in Victorian society, with its corruption hidden under outward decorum, its romance smothered under ugly riches in stuffy drawing-rooms. But when the call came to him he valiantly settled down. In Grosvenor Square they spoke of him behind their fans as a young man who had sown his wild oats and was now an eligible husband for the innocent Lucy Kenyon, with her sloping shoulders and vacant eyes. He married her as his duty and begat sons and daughters.

"He also bought more land. But that was only at the beginning of his squireship. . . . Then came the bad days of the landowners. Lower and lower dropped the price of land and the price of wheat; hop substitutes became an electioneering cry in the Rye division of Sussex, and the noble gardens by the River Tillingham went fallow.

Then came Lloyd George's Land Act, the rush to the market, the impossibility of sale. Finally the European War of 1914 swept away the little Alard substance that was left. They found themselves in possession of a huge ramshackle estate, heavily mortgaged, crushingly taxed.

"Sir John had four sons—Hugh, Peter, George and Gervase—and three daughters, Doris, Mary, and Janet. Hugh and Peter both went out to fight, and Hugh never came back. George, following a tradition which had obtained in the family since the days of the Non-Juring Gervase, held the family living of Leasan. Gervase, at the outbreak of hostilities, was only in his second term at Winchester, being nearly eighteen years younger than his brother George.

"Of the girls only Mary was married, though Doris hinted at a number of suitors rejected because of their unworthiness to mate with Alard. Jenny was ten years younger than Mary. She and Gervase came apart from the rest of the family, children of middle age, and the last of love."

* By Sheila Kaye-Smith. Cassell & Co., Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.

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