

She wrote that for the last two years her health had not been good, and she had not recovered from the strain of the extra work she did during the war, and that she had reluctantly come to the conclusion that, in the interests of the hospital, and of her own health, she must resign. She thanked the Guardians for the assistance they had given her, and especially the Clerk, Mr. A. E. Booker.

WEDDING BELLS.

A very interesting and picturesque wedding, that of Miss Hilda May Kendall, Matron of the General Hospital, Nottingham, and Mr. John S. Birbeck, House Governor and Secretary of the General Infirmary, Salisbury, formerly Assistant Secretary at the General Hospital, Nottingham, took place at St. James' Church, Nottingham, recently, a reception, to which 400 guests were bidden, afterwards being held in the Nurses' Home. There were a large number of wedding gifts from members of the Medical and Nursing Staffs and other friends, and many good wishes were expressed for the future happiness of the bride and bridegroom.

Many friends, both at home and abroad, will combine in good wishes to Miss Isabel Carmichael, S.R.N., Matron of the Totnes Cottage Hospital, and formerly a member of the Registered Nurses' Society, 431, Oxford Street, London, and of the French Flag Nursing Corps, on her approaching marriage.

BEQUEST TO NURSE.

Mr. William Drayton, a Vicar-Choral at Wells, Somerset, and believed to be the oldest Vicar-Choral in England, having joined the choir at Wells Cathedral in 1860, has bequeathed £50 to Nurse Florence Catherine Howell, "in recognition of her kindness and attention during my long illness." As a young man, Mr. Drayton sang in grand opera with Sims Reeves, Piccolomini, and other great singers.

THE PASSING BELL.

We deeply regret to record the death of Miss Mabel Sleight, S.R.N., formerly Sister Lucas at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and Hon. Treasurer of its Nurses' League, after a long illness, on August 8th. Cremation took place at the Golders' Green Crematorium, and the subsequent service was attended by the Matron, representing the Hospital, Miss H. T. Baines, representing the Nurses' League, Mrs. de Segundo, Miss Curtis, Mrs. Bonney, Miss Jenkins, Miss Appleyard, Miss Eleanor Jones, and many other friends. The interment took place at the Finchley Road Cemetery.

The League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses sent a lovely floral shield composed of stocks and violets.

The good work of Miss Sleight, a member of a very talented family, both for the Hospital, and for the League, whose finances she managed with conspicuous success, is well known, and there are many who will deplore her loss.

We regret to record the death, during a holiday, of Miss Nellie Davenport, Matron of the Walsall General Hospital. She was taken suddenly ill, and an operation performed, but she died twelve days later. She was trained at the Victoria Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

The sudden death of Miss Frances Keith Payne, formerly Matron for many years of the Wellington Hospital, New Zealand, came as a great shock to her many friends and members of the nursing and medical professions.

Many nurses who trained under Miss Payne have held high positions in New Zealand, and have cause to thank her for the excellence of that training.

A special service was held at 9.30 a.m. on Saturday, June 7th, at St. Paul's pro Cathedral by the Rev. M. Johnson, and a very large number of friends and members of the medical and nursing professions were present. The flowers were very beautiful and in great profusion.

Many of Miss Payne's former nurses and members of the medical profession associated with her at Wellington Hospital attended the service at the graveside.

It will be remembered that Miss Keith Payne attended the Interim Congress of the International Council of Nurses in Paris in 1907, and acted as Hon. Vice-President for New Zealand until the Nurses of that Dominion organised a National Association which was affiliated to the Council in 1912.

LEGAL MATTERS.

CRUEL AND HEARTLESS THEFTS.

The following report of the proceedings at the Surrey Quarter Sessions at Kingston-on-Thames, when Bertha Marguerita McBickford was sentenced to six months' imprisonment for most cruel and heartless thefts in houses in which she was engaged in the capacity of a nurse, appeared in the *Surrey Mirror* of the 18th ult.

Bertha Marguerita McBickford, 26, formerly employed as a nurse in Redhill, appeared in custody at Surrey Quarter Sessions, at Kingston, on Tuesday, charged with stealing, between July 9th and 11th, a half-hoop five-stone diamond ring, valued at £40, and five £1 notes, the property of Mrs. Rose Goodman of "The Nab" Reigate. Prisoner's face was almost hidden by a hat greatly out of proportion to her somewhat diminutive face, which led the Clerk of Quarter Sessions to ask after he had read the charge, "Can you see me?" In a voice scarcely audible a few yards distant prisoner pleaded guilty. Mr. W. Otter conducted the case for the prosecution, and Mr. H. Douglas (instructed by Messrs. Bacon, Phillips and Pringle) appeared for the prisoner.

The case for the prosecution was that the prisoner was engaged as a nurse with Mrs. Goodman on July 9th, two days previous to which Mrs. Goodman had left the ring, the subject of the charge, in a jewel case on the mantelpiece in her bedroom. Prisoner left on July 11th, after which the ring was missed, together with five £1 notes, which were in a handbag in a dressing table drawer. When interviewed later by P.S. Attwood at a house in Hatchlands Road, prisoner at first denied all knowledge of the ring, but when told that she would be detained for inquiries to be made as to her movements in London during the preceding weekend, she exclaimed "Oh, what shall I do?" and immediately handed over the ring and three £1 notes. Mr. Otter added that he believed there was a warrant out for the prisoner's arrest on a substantially similar charge in respect of another ring, worth about £30. He also believed that an officer had collected a good deal of evidence about the prisoner, and would be able to tell the Court about quite a number of things that had been missing under the same sort of circumstances.

PRISONER'S ANTECEDENTS.

P.S. Attwood informed the Court that the prisoner was a native of London, and received her training as a nurse at St. Mary Abbot's Hospital, Kensington, obtaining her certificate in June, 1922. She left there in October of the same year, and the Matron said that during the time she was there nothing was missed and she was looked upon as a person with an exemplary character. On November 2nd, 1922, she obtained employment as nurse at the Belgrave Trained Nurses' Institution, Chelsea, and left early in December, 1923. The Matron said that during the time she was in their employ she performed her duties satisfactorily, and was never suspected by her, or any of the patients, or patients' friends, of being dishonest. During her employment she was sent out nursing to various places in the Metropolitan Police District. From inquiries made, however, it was found that during the time she was nursing a Miss Salmon, from December 10th to 22nd, at Farm House, Riversfield, Staines, Miss Salmon missed a half-hoop five-stone diamond ring, value £30, and £6 in money. Prisoner was suspected, but, owing to lack of proof, the matter was not reported to the Institution, or the police. In her box, after her arrest, witness found a pawn-ticket for a ring pledged at Canterbury, on December 22nd, 1923, for £5, in the name of B. Mack. When questioned about that ticket, prisoner stated that the ring was given her by her mother. The ring had since been identified by Miss Salmon as her property, and he held a warrant against the

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