

BEQUESTS TO NURSES.

The late Miss Whiffen, of Barn Rock, Aldwick, near Bognor, has left the following bequests to nurses on the staff of the Registered Nurses' Society, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.1:—To Miss Ruby J. Backler, S.R.N., £50; to Miss Minnie M. King, S.R.N., £50; to Miss Letitia Williams, £50, and to Miss Cecilia E. Morrison, S.R.N., £10.

Mr. Frank William Humphrey, M.A., M.B., of the Old Rectory, West Ilsley, near Newbury, left Nurse Miskin £150 and an annuity of £20.

Mr. John Walter Cross, of Chester Square, S.W., and Montague Terrace, Tunbridge Wells, the husband of George Eliot, left Nurse Margaret Pritchard, £300.

PRESENTATION.

The Resident Staff, past and present, of the General Infirmary at Leeds have forwarded to Sister Charlotte Porter, the sum of £100, as an expression of their appreciation of the great work she did as a Sister in Charge of the Medical and Surgical Wards of the Infirmary.

Sister Porter retired on June 27th, 1924, after 49 years' service.

Dr. H. H. Moll, the Resident Medical Officer, has received the following letter from Sister Porter in acknowledgment of the gift: "I do not know how to thank you all for the very nice present received this morning. I had no idea I had so many kind friends. Please thank all you know for me."

THE PASSING BELL.

The Territorial Army Nursing Service has sustained a severe loss in the death of Miss Caroline Webber, R.R.C., Matron, 3rd Southern General Hospital, on January 24th last. Miss Webber, who was trained at the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, Coventry, served with distinction at home and in France from August, 1914, until January, 1920, having been Mentioned in Despatches on May 31st, 1915, and awarded the R.R.C. (1st Class) on June 3rd, 1915. She recently held the civil post of Matron, Royal Albert Hospital, Devonport, until obliged to retire owing to ill-health. The funeral, which took place on January 27th, 1925, was attended by Miss Watt, R.R.C., late Principal Matron, T.A.N.S., 3rd Southern General Hospital.

We deeply regret to record the death of Miss Olivia Batty, for so many years Sister at the London Homœopathic Hospital (Sister Olive), who died at Bramblewood, Holt, Norfolk, where she lived on her retirement for nineteen years, at the age of 84. The funeral took place at Kelling Church on February 3rd, when the presence of many of her former colleagues and friends testified to the affection and respect in which she was held. Amongst the mourners were Miss Rumball, Sister Marian (her life-long friend), Sister Lloyd, Sister Bradgate, Major Attwood (London), Sister May Edgar (London Homœopathic Hospital), Miss Dale (Children's Sanatorium), Mrs. E. Pope, Dr. H. Skrimshire, Mr. B. I. Craske, and Mrs. Hopper. Lovely flowers bore affectionate inscriptions. Amongst others: From Marian, Florence and Louie; from Mrs. Pentney and maids; in loving remembrance from her old hospital sisters, Mary, Alicia, May, Lily and Frances; in loving memory from Major and Mrs. Attwood and family; a token of respect from the Nurses of the London Homœopathic Hospital; from the Chairman of the Board of Management, "In grateful remembrance of her devotion to her work and the hospital."

COMING EVENTS.

March 5th.—Central Midwives Board, Monthly Meeting, 1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, S.W.1.

March 11th.—Meeting Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland. Royal British Nurses' Association Club, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W.7. 3 p.m.

March 12th.—Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.1. 4.30 p.m.

March 13th.—Meeting to consider the formation of an Acquisitors' Society (small collectors of antiques). 431, Oxford Street, London, W.1. 5 p.m.

March 20th.—General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Monthly Meeting. Ministry of Health, S.W.1. 2.30 p.m.

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

Votes for Women at 21.

Parliament reassembled on February 10th, and matters of the utmost importance were at once under discussion in the House of Commons. On Friday, February 20th, the motion for the second reading of the Representation of the People Bill—the Labour Party's measure for giving the franchise to women at the age of 21—brought in by Mr. Whiteley, was rejected, by 220 votes to 153, in favour of the Home Secretary's motion declaring that "a considered scheme of franchise reform should be brought in at a suitable opportunity within the lifetime of the present Parliament."

Miss Wilkinson, the new Labour woman M.P., seconded the motion with wit and acumen, and will, in debate, prove an acquisition to the House where humour is rare.

We are all for political equality of the sexes, but favour Stuart Mill's view: "The condition precedent to universal suffrage is universal education." Boys and girls of 21 have had no time to develop a national conscience, and the right to vote simply for their own material benefit—a demand so often put forward—is not calculated to produce a high sense of citizenship.

During the debate Mr. Macquisten contended that young people before the age of 25 "ought to be thinking about each other and not about politics."

The fact that the women's vote will outnumber that of men if the age qualification is equal, will cause some trepidation. Are women, as a whole, in favour of this principle? We doubt it, to judge by their lack of appreciation of responsibility, when they have the chance. We have only to consider the nursing profession to realise their futility.

Alien Marriages.

Another woman's question, and one touching them very nearly, was brought forward by Major S. E. Harvey, who called attention to the status of British women who marry aliens and moved: "That in the opinion of this House a British woman should not lose, or be deemed to lose, her nationality by the mere act of marriage with an alien, but that it should be open to her to make a declaration of alienage."

The mover was easily able to show from the hard cases which arose during the war, that the reform was overdue. An amendment was moved from the Labour benches that a woman should be allowed to choose her own nationality on marriage.

Eventually the general consensus of feeling in the House led to the withdrawal of the amendment and the adoption of the original motion without a division.

The marvel is that under existing circumstances women ever marry foreigners, patriotism no doubt prevents many such unions. In many particulars we are still "chattels."

Peeresses in the Lords.

Their "Lordships' House" is also taking a hand in our emancipation.

The text has been issued of the Parliament (Qualification of Peeresses) Bill which has been introduced into the House of Lords by Lord Astor. The Bill provides that a woman, being the holder in her own right of any peerage other than a peerage of Scotland or Ireland, shall if otherwise qualified, be entitled to receive a writ of summons to Parliament and to sit and vote in the House of Lords as fully as if she were a man, and notwithstanding that the Royal Charter or Letters Patent (if any) creating such peerage do not expressly confer upon her the right to hold and possess a seat, place, and voice in Parliament.

A woman holding in her own right a Scottish or Irish peerage would be qualified to vote at the election of representative peers, and would herself be eligible for election.

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