

THE PASSING BELL.

LUCY RAMSDEN, S.R.N., M.B.C.N.

AN APPRECIATION.

It was with deep sorrow that we heard of the passing of Lucy Ramsden. To many who had not known of her illness, the news came as a great shock.

It is difficult to tell of her many activities, but her greatest work was done when Lady Superintendent of the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin. Her name there was world wide, and pupils came from all parts to get their midwifery training. Her great aim was to raise the standard of the midwife's training by giving a longer period to it, and also by encouraging her pupils to take their General Training as well. She rightly held that a midwife should also be a General Trained Nurse. She was a strong advocate of State Registration, and was one of the band of Irish women who fought for this great reform.

Miss Ramsden resigned her post at the Rotunda Hospital about ten years ago, but not for a life of ease. Immediately on going to London, she took up child welfare work, and her great knowledge and experience proved of immense value at the Clinic to which she gave her time. She was also President of the Midwives' Institute, 12, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C., Chairman of its Council and Executive Committee, and for the last four years Chairman of its Special Defence and Protection Fund Committee for Practising Midwives, and for three years Chairman of the House Committee which manages the Social side of the Nurses' Club.

Miss Ramsden was also a member of the Parliamentary and Legislative Committee of the National Council of Women of Great Britain. These are only a few of the many activities she was engaged in.

As a Colleague and Fellow-worker with Miss Ramsden, outside of her hospital work in Dublin, I can speak of the great pleasure it always was to be associated with her. Her knowledge was so vast and her judgment so clear and just, that one could always rely on them.

As a true and loyal friend her loss is irreparable, she leaves a void which will be very hard to fill. We tender our deepest sympathy to her brothers and sisters in their great sorrow.

A. CARSON RAE.

"WE MISS HER SORELY."

Mr. George E. Gask, C.M.G., D.S.O., F.R.C.S., Hon. Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, writes in the *St. Bartholomew's Hospital Journal* of Miss Laura Willey, S.R.N. (Sister Stanley) whose tragic death by drowning we reported last month.

"It is difficult to realize that Sister Stanley, who left us such a short time ago, full of joyous anticipation of her holiday, will not come back. We miss her sorely, for she has won her place as one of the best of that long line of Sisters of whom we have been so proud and who have done so much to make Bart's what it is. Trying to analyse the qualities which endeared her to us, her capacity as a nurse, which was quite first-rate, naturally rises to one's mind. As the Surgeon to the ward, the outstanding point was the perfect trust and confidence with which patients who were dangerously ill could be left in her care with full knowledge that everything possible for their well-being would be done. In the make-up of a good nurse, however, something over and above professional skill is required; there must be added the love of one's fellow creatures, and that Sister Stanley had to the full. She loved her patients with the love of a mother for her children, and when they were naughty she loved them just as much, and perhaps a little more. In her turn she was loved by the patients, by the nurses and the students. She made Stanley a happy ward.

"Perhaps the time at which Sister rose to her highest was at Christmas. She was the heart and soul of the entertainment; she had something for every patient; she helped the students, made their dresses for them, and was just like a mother with a big family of boys.

"Her quiet, cheery presence has gone from us, but her influence lives after her, and many an old patient, and many an old Bart's man will remember and bless her memory.

"Regretting her loss as we do, whether as a nurse, a sister, or as the loyal comrade in the day's work, the sadness of our loss

is relieved by the thought that she who spent her best in nursing the sick did not have to suffer the ordeal of a tedious illness, but passed away swiftly, and we may believe without pain, in the full enjoyment of the work in which she was so happy."

THE PASSING OF A PIONEER.

We deeply regret to record the death on August 24th of Miss Elizabeth A. Purvis for nearly forty years Superintendent of the Middlesbrough District Nursing Association. Miss Purvis was trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital and the St. Marylebone Infirmary, and was Sister at Monsall Fever Hospital before going to Middlesbrough. She was an early member of the Royal British Nurses Association, and the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, and one time frequently came to London, sparing neither trouble nor expense, in the interests of her profession.

The North Eastern Daily Gazette, Middlesbrough, says:—

"The news will be received with deep regret, not only by those directly associated with the Nurses' Home, but by the many thousands of working people who have received treatment and kindness during the 38 years Miss Purvis has controlled the nursing activities of the Association.

"With the death of Miss Purvis the Association loses the last of those who were directly concerned in the promotion of the scheme for the establishment of a permanent home for workmen and their families during sickness.

"It was at first difficult to guide the Association through the rough waters which surrounded it, but Miss Purvis made the task her life-work, and, as the result of her untiring efforts, thousands of homes have had their suffering alleviated by the comfort of trained nurses."

MISS LOUISA HALLIDAY.

Many past and present members of the Nursing Staff of the Royal Waterloo Hospital, Waterloo Bridge Road, S.E., will regret to learn of the death of Miss Louisa Halliday, formerly Matron of that Institution, which occurred at Rugby Hospital on August 1st.

LEGACIES FOR NURSES.

Mr. Robert Church, of Tadworth, Surrey, left £300 to his daughter's nurse attendant, Mrs. E. P. Paston, and £50 to her daughter Connie.

Captain George Montague Marston, R.N., of Corfe Castle, Dorset, left £250 to his nurse, Helen Warner Montfort, and £300 to his nurse, Miss M. Nagle.

Mr. Alexander Henn Goschen, of Lennox Gardens, S.W., left £1,000 to Nurse Gladys Hilda Fletcher.

Sir George Alfred Wills, Bart., head of the Imperial Tobacco Company, Ltd., of Great Britain and Ireland, left £1,500 to his nurse, Marjorie Townsend, for her kind attention during illness and afterwards, and £250 to his nurse, Frances Collard.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON—DIPLOMA IN NURSING.

Revised Regulations for the University of London Diploma in Nursing have just been issued by the University. The pamphlet of Regulations contains also a list of books suggested for study or reference in connection with the Diploma, and copies of the pamphlet can be obtained by Nurses on application to Mr. John Lea, M.A., University Extension Registrar, University of London, South Kensington, S.W.7

The next Examination for the Diploma will be held in October and November, the Examination for Part A beginning on Tuesday, October 23rd, and that for Part B on Tuesday, November 13th.

Applications for forms of entry for the Examination should be made not later than September 24th, and must be received at the University by October 1st.

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