

THE PASSING BELL.

Miss Catherine Jane Wood.

(BORN JUNE 28TH, 1841; DIED JUNE 14TH, 1930.)

By the death of Miss Catherine Jane Wood a well-known and forceful personality in the nursing world has passed away. Miss Wood, who was the contemporary of Mrs. Dacre Craven and Mrs. Howard Marsh, commenced her nursing career by entering the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, W.C., of which institution she became the Lady Superintendent in 1878. "In those early days," she recently told Miss A. M. Bushby, who visited her in her home at Hartfield, in Sussex, "there was no training for nurses, you just picked up what the doctors would teach you!"

Miss Wood was one of the very early members of the British Nurses' Association, founded in 1887; was its Nurse Hon. Secretary, in conjunction with the Medical

some few weeks ago she did not complain and only said 'You know I am blind,' which I had not realised. As one looked at her one could not help realising that the long life was fast drawing to a close. Her face showed no sign of sorrow or care and one thought her almost beautiful."

Miss Wood was fortunate in having for many years the friendship of Miss Nancy Paul, who devoted the greater part of her life to her, and her unstinted devotion must, especially in her later years of helplessness, have been a great comfort to her frail old friend.

Miss Wood died at Hartfield on June 14th and was buried there on June 18th.

Miss Linda Richards.

(BORN 1841; DIED 1930.)

In 1841 also, Miss Linda Richards, America's first trained nurse, was born in Potsdam, New York, and died on



MISS CATHERINE JANE WOOD,
First Nurse Hon. Secretary to the Royal British Nurses' Association and a Signatory to its Royal Charter.

Hon. Secretary (Dr. Bedford Fenwick), in its strenuous early days; and was one of the signatories to the Royal Charter granted to the Association in 1893. She was a co-founder, with Mrs. Howard Marsh, of the Alexandra Hospital for Children with Hip Disease, Queen's Square, Bloomsbury; and in 1889 founded the Nurses' Hostel in Francis Street, W.C., of which she was Managing Director; and was Secretary-General of the Guild of St. Barnabas for Nurses from its inauguration in 1876 until seven years ago.

In 1892-1895 she acted as a Special Commissioner of the *British Medical Journal* in connection with the Inquiry which it instituted into the conditions of Workhouse Infirmaries in England and Ireland, and considered this one of the best pieces of work which she undertook, her report upon it being published in pamphlet form by the British Medical Association. She lectured on Hygiene and Nursing for various County Councils; and, in its day, her "Handbook on the Nursing of Sick Children" was a standard work.

During her later years she became quite blind and somewhat deaf. Miss Bushby writes: "When I visited her

April 16th, 1930, at the New England Hospital for Women, Boston, Mass., her Alma Mater, from which she graduated after a year's training in 1873.

Dr. Marie Zakrewska, one of the first women physicians to practise in America, was at that time endeavouring to demonstrate the value of good methods of nursing, and gave Miss Richards such training as was then obtainable.

In 1873 she was appointed the first Night Superintendent of Nurses at Bellevue Hospital, New York, under Sister Helen, and subsequently organised the School of Nursing at the Massachusetts General Hospital. In 1877 she came to England for further study, where she had the deeply prized opportunity of meeting Miss Nightingale. Of this she wrote: "Many and various blessings have come to me through the years of hospital life, but never one greater than the privilege of having seen and known Miss Nightingale. I have never ceased to apply the benefits derived from that first visit."

After another period of work in America she went to Japan, under the American Board of Foreign Missions, and latterly her interests were centred in the care of the insane.

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