

## THE PASSING BELL.

### THE BELOVED ARCHDEACON.

On Wednesday, February 25th, Dr. E. E. Holmes, better known to his friends as Archdeacon Holmes, Archdeacon of London and Canon of St. Paul's from 1911 to 1930, was laid to rest in the St. Alban's (Holborn) Burial Ground, Brookwood.

A Requiem was said at St. Barnabas, Pimlico, at 10 a.m. after which the body was brought to St. Paul's Cathedral, the scene of his ministry for so many years. It was met at the west door by the Bishops of London, Stepney, Kensington and Willesden, the Cathedral Clergy and Choir, who chanted the sentences from the Burial Service as they proceeded up the nave. After the coffin was laid upon the bier, the singing of Psalm 23, and the reading of the Lesson by Canon Mozley, the Choir sang the beautiful Kontakion, which echoed softly through the aisles. The harvest hymn, "The sower went forth sowing," was sung as the procession passed down the nave.

Archdeacon Holmes was always keenly interested in the work of nurses, and seats had been reserved in the Choir for members of the Guild of St. Barnabas, many of whom were present, and walked two by two behind the coffin until the Cathedral steps were reached. Among the large congregation which assembled to pay their homage to this Ambassador of Christ were the Lord Mayor and his Chaplain, the Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and many other distinguished citizens.

The remainder of the service at the graveside was conducted by the Rev. H. Ross, Vicar of St. Alban's, Holborn, a friend of over 40 years' standing.

Few men have been more universally beloved than the late Archdeacon, by little children, by nurses, by the clergy in his Archdeaconry, and indeed by a far wider circle, including Bishops and Archbishops.

The early years of his ministry were spent in South Africa as Chaplain to the Metropolitan of Cape Town, and during this time, during an epidemic of smallpox, he was devoted in ministering to the stricken people. Only those who have seen how this scourge sweeps across a country where the community is unvaccinated can have any conception of the devastation caused.

On his return to England his friendship with the Rev. E. F. Russell, of St. Alban's, Holborn, brought him into relations with the Guild of St. Barnabas, and the Quiet Days which he conducted for its members were days of refreshment which will not soon be forgotten, and no Annual Meeting was complete without his gaiety and fun.

Of deep spirituality, sympathy, personal charm and poetic vision, he will long be remembered by those who knew him.

### MRS. TEESDALE BIRKS.

It is with sorrow that we announce the death of Mrs. Teesdale Birks (*née* Branch), a sorrow which will be shared by those colleagues who were trained with her at the Great Northern (now the Royal Northern) Hospital, Holloway Road, London, N., and who worked with her on the Registered Nurses' Association, now of 39, Portland Place, London, W., and throughout the Great War on the French Flag Nursing Corps, a Corps of three years' certificated British Nurses, of which the Hon. Superintendent was Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, who worked directly under the French War Office and the British Branch of the French Red Cross.

In France Mrs. Birks did conspicuously good work and was looked up to by her younger colleagues, whom she greatly helped. At one time she superintended the nursing of a hospital and also a clearing station. Her valuable services were recognised by the award by the French Nation of the *Croix de Guerre*, a decoration held by few women, and a presentation of a gold wristlet watch by the French Flag Nursing Corps was also made to her.

Shortly after her return to London she married Mr. Teesdale Birks, a London solicitor, and lived mainly at Walton-on-Thames. For some years she suffered from an internal complaint which caused her such acute pain that on February 21st she went into the Walton Hospital for an operation, from which she never rallied.

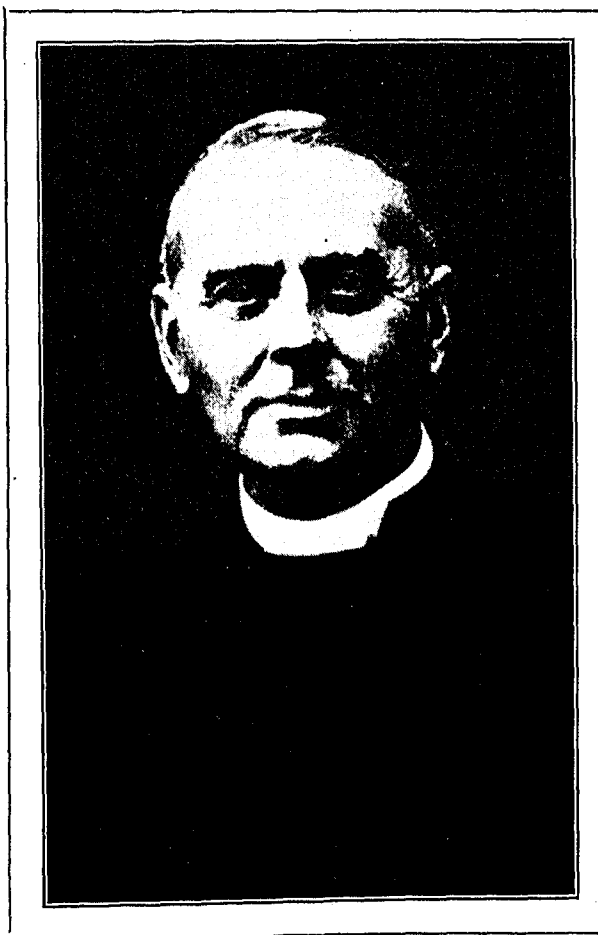
To Mr. Teesdale Birks and her little daughters, by whom she was greatly beloved, we offer our heartfelt sympathy.

### A DUTY NOBLY PERFORMED.

Full military honours were accorded to Nurse Beryl Adeline Dennett, who, well knowing the risk she ran, volunteered to nurse soldiers at the Military Isolation Hospital, Aldershot, suffering from cerebro-spinal meningitis, she contracted the disease from which she died in twenty-four hours. We honour and salute her.

### THE DEATH ROLL OF THE NEW ZEALAND EARTHQUAKE.

We have received from the High Commissioner for New Zealand the list of deaths in the New Zealand earthquake which have so far reached his office. It contains, we grieve to say, the names of seven members of the nursing profession, who are: Sister Mitchell, Nurse Marjory Insull, Nurse Kidell, Nurse Stone, Nurse Staines, Nurse Nancy Thorne-George, Nurse Eileen Williams. To their colleagues and relatives we offer our deep sympathy.



THE LATE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON HOLMES, D.D.,  
Canon of St. Paul's Cathedral and Archdeacon of London, 1911-1930.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)