

THE PASSING BELL.

THE DEATH OF MISS CHARLOTTE MUNCK, President of the Danish Council of Nurses.

The death of Miss Charlotte Munck, President of the Danish Council of Nurses, after a short illness on July 27th, is a great loss to the International Council of Nurses, and will be a personal sorrow to her friends in many countries whose National Associations of Nurses are in affiliation with it. Her personality, capacity, and forcefulness made her an outstanding member of any international gathering at which she was present, and those who attended the meetings of the Executive Committee in Copenhagen in 1922 and 1923 will not soon forget her hospitality, geniality and kindness when as Matron of the great Bispebjerg Hospital, she entertained many of the visitors, as well as acting, in 1923, as Chairman of the business meetings. For this position she was admirably fitted by her perfect command of the English language, her quickness in appreciating the points made by the various speakers, her grasp of the importance of the principle of self-government in international nursing affairs, and the humour with which she so often drove home her arguments.

At the Meeting and Congress of the I.C.N. in Paris next year she will be greatly missed by many who had looked forward to the pleasure of renewing their acquaintance or friendship with her.

During "Nightingale Week" her absence was publicly deplored, and messages of affection sent to her. The National Council of Nurses of Great Britain offers its sincerest sympathy to their Danish colleagues at the loss of their dear President and devoted friend.

How sad a record since the meeting at Helsingfors. Three countries deprived of leaders, such as Agnes Karll, Germany; Baroness Sophie Mannerheim, Finland; and Charlotte Munck, Denmark, all women of outstanding ability and force of character. The nursing world can ill afford to lose them.

MISS ALICE GARSTANG.

We sincerely regret to record the death of Miss Alice Garstang, S.R.N., F.B.C.N., which occurred on July 27th last. Miss Garstang had given many strenuous years of service to the sick, and only a year ago retired from public health nursing to live with a friend hoping to enjoy a little leisure, and of taking part in the work of the British College of Nurses. Although her death was caused by malignant disease—it was only recently realised, and she suffered no pain. Her last days were spent in a charming little Nursing Home at Oxford, where her kind nurses helped to make her life serene and happy.

THE RETIREMENT OF MISS E. T. BICKERTON, R.R.C.

The news that Miss E. T. Bickerton, R.R.C., Matron of the Prince of Wales General Hospital, Tottenham, is to retire at the end of the year, will everywhere be known with regret, as she is revered and beloved by all those associated with her.

Entering the Hospital in 1898 as a probationer, she has taken a most active part in the rise and progress of the institution. After strenuous work in various offices she was appointed Matron in July, 1915, in which responsible office she has gained the entire approval of the Governing Body. Her rule has always been just and sympathetic—and as it has always been "patients first" with Miss Bickerton—the nursing staff have followed her fine example of service, and thus established a very high standard of nursing in the hospital.

While Miss Bickerton's devotion to her task has made heavy demands upon her time, she has performed her outside professional duties with courage and discretion. She served on the committee and Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and is now one of its three Vice-Chairmen. She helped to establish the Hospital Nurses' League, and has been elected a Director of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain. She is on the panel of examiners of the General Nursing Council, and represents the Matrons' Council at conferences of the National Council of Women. She is a foundation Fellow of the British College of Nurses, and assisted in the establishment of the Imperial Nurses' Club, of which H.R.H. Princess Beatrice is President.

Miss Bickerton will carry into her retirement the appreciation and love of her fellow workers at the Hospital, and the sincere regard of the people in the district in whose service she has worked so faithfully.

It is to be hoped that the profession will still have the benefit of her services after her retirement from active hospital life. In these days such services are of the utmost value to our profession.



THE LATE MISS CHARLOTTE MUNCK, R.N.
President, Danish Council of Nurses.

COMING EVENTS.

September 17th.—British College of Nurses. Council Meeting. 2.15 p.m.

September 28th.—Administration Classes. Charing Cross Hospital Nurses' Home. Visits will be paid later by kind permission to the Preliminary Nursing School and departments at the London Hospital. To the Tuberculosis Settlement at Papworth, and to the new Bethlem Royal Hospital at Monk's Orchard, Beckenham.

September 30th.—General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Monthly Meeting, 20, Portland Place, London, W.1. 2.30 p.m.

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