

THE PASSING BELL.

MISS HELEN L. PEARSE, S.R.N., F.B.C.N.

The many friends of Miss Helen Pearse, at home and abroad, will grieve to learn of her death after a brief acute illness. Early in December she had had an attack of asthma but appeared to have recovered, and she and her friend, Miss S. A. Villiers, were planning to spend Christmas together at Worthing, when she became seriously ill on December 22nd, and was moved from Stevenage to a nursing home at Hitchin where she was found to be suffering from congestion of the lungs, and on the morning of December 27th she passed away.

Helen Pearse was trained at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, during the Matronship of Miss Isla Stewart, for whom she had a great affection and regard.

growth and development of school nursing work since Miss Pearse's appointment as Superintendent in 1907. At that time the School Nursing Staff consisted of 32 nurses, and she left it with a staff of 360.

Dr. F. C. Shrubbsall, a senior Medical Officer of the London County Council also spoke warmly of her services to the Council, and of the happy relations which had always existed between Miss Pearse and the Medical Staff of its Public Health Department.

Subsequently a Dinner in her honour, at which Mrs. Bedford Fenwick presided, took place at the Royal British Nurses' Association Club when a telegram was received by her from the Princess Arthur of Connaught, President of the Association, asking her to convey to the Association's guest Her Royal Highness's warm good wishes that she might enjoy her retirement, and her



Miss Helen Lucy Pearse, S.R.N., F.B.C.N., at her desk when Superintendent of the London County Council School Nurses, 1907-1929.

After taking her certificate, she held in succession the positions of Assistant Matron at the Lambeth Infirmary, Matron of the North Staffordshire Infirmary, Hartshill, Stoke-on-Trent, and Matron of the Great Northern (now the Royal Northern) Hospital, Holloway Road, N. The greater part of her professional life, however, was spent as Superintendent of the London County Council School Nursing Service, in the development of which she took great pride and pleasure, as well as in the individual nurses, who responded to her interest in them, and who, at her suggestion, founded a School Nurses' League of which they elected her as their first President.

When after 22 years' service Miss Pearse, in October, 1929, resigned this office, and the School Nurses and other L.C.C. officials presented her with a parting gift, Mr. Day, Chief Clerk of the Public Health Department who made the presentation, referred to the enormous

sincere congratulations on the splendid work she had achieved.

Miss Pearse was one of those pioneer nurses who took a leading part in Nursing Organisation. She was deeply interested in the work for the State Registration of Nurses, and lost no opportunity of giving her support to the movement at a time when it was meeting with determined opposition. She was a Vice-President of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and a member of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses. The self-governing associations of nurses had also her warm interest. She was at various times a Vice-Chairman of the Royal British Nurses' Association, President of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and of the National Union of Trained Nurses, and for some years Hon. Secretary of the National Council of Nurses of Great

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