

## DR. ANNA HAMILTON, STANDARD BEARER.

In our December issue we notified the death of Dr. Anna Hamilton of Bordeaux and gave some details of her career. Just as we were going to press we received the following notice of Dr. Hamilton's passing from Mlle. M. Cornet-Auquier, Directrice of the Ecole Florence Nightingale, Domaine de Bagatelle, Bordeaux-Talence, and we feel sure that her many friends and admirers throughout the world will prize this account of her last days.

Mlle. Cornet-Auquier writes:—

"Miss Hamilton entered into her last sleep on the evening of the 19th of October, in the quietness of the Nurses' Home at Bagatelle where she retired a year and a half ago. Until the funeral ceremony the nurses stayed by the coffin which was covered with a great many flowers, big wreaths and some small bunches, all given in great homage to her long life work. It was on a splendid autumnal day that she left the School for the last time, surrounded by the guard of honour that she would have preferred: her nurses.

Since last January Dr. Hamilton had been very ill and her disease was not curable. She accepted bravely to see her life being reduced gradually; and little by little she entered into the peace we had wished so much for her during her long and tormented life. Peace given by God, given also by all those who took care of her and loved her, and through the great joy of seeing the achievement of the last building of the Hospital, the Chapel.

Many past years' probationers and nurses of the School came for the funeral, wishing to prove their faithfulness to the great inspiration that Miss Hamilton has been able to give them on Nursing. They realise deeply the absolute necessity to maintain in France the high ideal of Florence Nightingale's work, of which Miss Hamilton gave them the example.

The funeral was very simple. Only one member of her family was able to come from Paris. There were her faithful friends, the members of the Board of Trustees of the Maison de Santé, the Matron, sisters, nurses, doctors, and nearly eighty probationers, actually in training, dressed in the light blue uniform of the School.

The service was conducted by the Hospital Chaplain, who, in an emotional discourse, spoke of Dr. Hamilton's life.

The Chairman also spoke of her thirty-three years' strenuous work in the Hospital and School, and of all that has been created by her strong faith. Everybody was very much impressed, and all heartily associated themselves with the terminal prayer of the clergyman and with the singing of the two hymns Miss Hamilton liked best.

We have lost a leader. But life has to go on for us with its difficulties, fights, sadness and joys. We owe her the precious example of a completely consecrated life. We are grateful to her, and resolute to carry on firmly and courageously our task."

M. Cornet-Auquier,  
*Directrice.*

"Marguerite Winckler," a friend of Dr. Hamilton, writes in a local paper that at Dr. Hamilton's funeral, which was celebrated with much pomp and solemnity, all the women's associations in the town sent delegations.

This was only just, as for nearly 40 years of her life she had made the Cause of Feminism triumph in the direction which was nearest to her heart, the place of women in hospitals, and improvement of the career of the nurse. It is given to few to see during their lifetime their efforts crowned with such brilliant success; she had this happiness.

It is interesting to trace the influence of heredity and environment on Dr. Hamilton's character. Her father (Fitzroy Hamilton) was Irish, her mother French. Like Florence Nightingale she was born in the lovely city of Florence, and her youth was spent in Italy, though she

early adopted French nationality. As we know the greater part of her life was spent in Bordeaux, of which she was a patriotic citizen, and France bestowed upon her one of its most highly prized gifts, when, in recognition of her distinguished services, it made her a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour, an honour which she richly merited.

## REVIEWS.

### "LE ROY EST MORT!"\*

AN ACCOUNT OF THE DEATHS OF THE RULERS OF ENGLAND..

*"For God's sake let us sit upon the ground  
And tell sad stories of the death of Kings."*

To all who are interested in the history of their country, "Le Roy est Mort!" by Mr. Macleod Yearsley, F.R.C.S., must be of great interest, for with a wealth of detail, representing much patient research, he has incorporated in a most interesting and readable volume the history of the deaths of the monarchs of these Realms from William the Conqueror down to and including those of Queen Victoria and King Edward VII.

What makes the book of special interest to the medical and nursing professions is that Mr. Yearsley writes from the point of view of a scientific observer, who, from the information before him, readily deduces and presents with a precision which convinces, many points which would otherwise be obscure.

Thus concerning the death of Stephen, which he deals with in three short quotations—the first from the writings of Gervase of Canterbury: "The King was suddenly seized with pain in the iliac region along with an old discharge from haemorrhoids,"—Mr. Yearsley remarks: "Meagre as is the information contained in these terse passages, three notable points stand out which make the diagnosis certain: (1) Sudden onset; (2) Pain in one or other iliac region; (3) The passage of blood *per anum*. The most likely side to be affected (because most frequently attacked) is the right. Thus there is strong evidence that Stephen died of an abscess of the appendix, accompanied by bleeding from piles. About 850 years later King Edward VII was the victim of an abscess in the same region, but was saved by the advances made in surgery."

To Henry VIII, that Bluebeard amongst monarchs, iconoclast, and robber of Church revenues and property, we must concede a meed of pity when we learn how his life and death "reveal an appalling example of the effects of syphilis, although not so horrible as that of the Russian Czar Ivan the Terrible." There follows a précis of the history of this disease, the only one possessing a written history commencing with a definite date—the return of Columbus, from his discovery of America, to Barcelona in 1493. It showed the virulence which usually marks new diseases when they meet a virgin soil. "When it is considered that Henry was a young man of 18 when he came to the throne and was, judging by the report of the Venetian Envoy, a picture of handsome and vigorous health, it is probable that his infection occurred after his accession." Relating his subsequent medical history Mr. Yearsley concludes: "With these clear facts before us there is ground for a modicum of pity for Henry, for they give a clue to his degeneration from a young man of great promise into a violent, brutal and ill-balanced tyrant. We can pity him for his passionate longing for a healthy male heir, cruelly disappointed by the long string of miscarriages and dead children. His treatment of his wives was a part of that sexual brutality which goes with brain

\* John Heritage. The Unicorn Press, Ltd., High Holborn, London, W.C.1. 3/6 net.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)