

## THE RESIGNATION OF MISS M. E. B. CLARK, S.R.N., F.B.C.N.

### APPRECIATION OF 32 YEARS' SERVICE WITH THE ELY DISTRICT NURSING ASSOCIATION.

We feel sure that Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses will learn with much satisfaction of the honour shown to their colleague Miss M. E. B. Clark, F.B.C.N., when on her retirement after nearly 32 years service, the Ely Nursing Association at its annual meeting presented her with a handsome chiming clock as a token of the Association's thanks for her continuous loyal service.

The following quoted from the report of this memorable occasion published in the *Cambridgeshire Times* reveals the high ideals which inspired Miss Clark throughout her distinguished career:—

After nearly 32 years service with the Ely District Nursing Association, Nurse M. E. B. Clark, of 28, Chief's Street, Ely, has given notice of her resignation, to take effect on June 24th next. In the words of Miss H. M. Willink (secretary to the Association) "This resignation feels like the end of an epoch . . . She has become so knit into the life of the Association that Ely will find it hard to realise that we can function without her."

All her life Nurse Clark has been devoted to her profession, in which she first started before she was 19 years of age, and her devotion to her duties is well proved by the fact that during the past year she had paid no less than 5,202 visits to the sick in Ely. Her many patients will regret her decision, as her work has been much appreciated, but one and all will join in wishing her all happiness in her retirement.

The Bishop of Ely (Dr. B. O. F. Heywood) was in the chair, and speaking prior to the presentation, the Vicar of Ely (Rev. M. Hinton Knowles) stated that Nurse Clark's record was a very wonderful one as she had been in her profession for nearly 42 years and of that time she had given 32 years' service to the people in Ely. She had really become an institution and one of the most honoured institutions in this city. Her record was remarkable, not only because of the length of her service, but because of the amount of work she had been able to get through. He noticed that in 1888 the nurse paid 3,423 visits, while during the past year Nurse Clark had paid over 5,000 visits, and it was a familiar sight to see her going from place to place on her bicycle.

The Vicar went on to refer to the healthy financial state of the Association, saying that it was very largely due to the way in which Nurse Clark had won the hearts of the people in the city by her own splendid work among them. He was sure they all wished her many, many years

of happy retirement which would be spent in the continuance of some good work and useful activity.

The clock, which bore the inscription "Presented to Nurse M. E. B. Clark, S.R.N., by the E.D.N.A. in appreciation of devoted services, 1907 to 1939" was handed to Nurse Clark by Mrs. Pratt.

### Splendid Career.

In her reply Nurse Clark briefly reviewed her splendid career. She recalled her early efforts to find a hospital which would take probationers before they were 21 years of age. Before she was 19 she succeeded in entering the Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, City Road, London, after which she served in the County Hospital for Taunton and Somerset. She completed her training there and then spent four years in the Cape, South Africa. For the first nine months of that time she was a nurse in the Boer War, and she then entered St.

Michael's Home, Kimberley, where she was under Sister Henrietta, the pioneer nurse, who started the leper colony at Robin Island. Her other engagements at the Cape included four months' duty at St. Helena Hospital. She then returned to England, and as her parents were living in Ely, started work in the city with the Nursing Association in 1907. Service was her great joy, she stated. It had never mattered who wanted her, 24 hours out of 24, although she was pleased to say that she had never been called upon unless it was absolutely necessary.

### Other Interests.

Apart from nursing as her profession, Nurse Clark has been connected with nursing in her leisure time, too. In 1912 the Nursing Association gave her permission to join the Red Cross and when, in 1914, the British Red Cross Detachment, Cambs 48 (Ely) was formed, she was appointed trained nurse

and assistant matron. Later she became Lady Superintendent and Commandant.

### OBITUARY.

The War Office,

We regret to record the death, on May 30th, 1939, of Miss Ethel St. Quintin, R.R.C., late Matron Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.

Miss St. Quintin who trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, was appointed Staff Nurse at Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service on December 23rd, 1904. She was promoted Sister on August 1st, 1907. For her services as Acting Matron during the Great War, she was awarded the decoration of the Royal Red Cross in 1917. During a total service of over 27 years, Miss St. Quintin served in Egypt and China, and was promoted Matron on April 18th, 1927. She retired in 1932.



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[previous page](#)

[next page](#)