

**THE PASSING OF MISS ELEANOR BARTON, R.R.C.**

**A TYPICAL NURSE OF THE LAST CENTURY.**

It was with heartfelt sorrow that the many friends of Miss Eleanor Barton heard of her death on February 19th at her home in Chelsea.

Miss Barton was trained at Bart.'s and appointed Home Sister and later Matron of the Chelsea Infirmary, now St. Luke's Hospital, in 1899. The last 24 years of her nursing career were spent at this Institution. She loved the place and she loved her nurses, and one and all they loved and respected her.

During the war she was appointed Principal Matron of the 3rd London General Territorial Hospital, at Wandsworth, and was awarded the R.R.C. 1st Class, for her services in connection with this place.

While at the Chelsea Infirmary she founded the Poor Law Matrons' Association and under her wise and tactful leadership the Association did much useful work for the benefit of the Poor Law Nursing Service.

On her retirement in 1923 from active nursing, Miss Barton settled down in a little house of her own in Chelsea. That little house soon became a centre where hospitality, sympathy and a warm welcome were always to be found. Amongst many other activities she threw herself heart and soul into work for the Chelsea Branch of the British Legion, and her annual sales and working parties became a feature of the locality. In a little shed at the bottom of her garden she housed gifts and the stores of clothing made at her working parties, and it was with almost childlike delight and satisfaction that she drew upon these stores to supply the needs of those who called at her door for assistance. Unworldly to a remarkable degree she saw only the best in those she met, and was vexed if her friends tried to curb her boundless generosity and charity.

Entirely selfless, her thoughts were always for others; she positively disliked to talk about herself and even when her health was visibly failing she never alluded to it and never complained.

She had literary and artistic tastes, and probably if she had been born in later times, when more professions were open to women, she might have chosen a life where she could have had more scope for her gifts in these directions, but in no other profession could the beauty of her character have had so widespread and so valuable an influence as it had on the generations of young probationers who passed through her hands. By her own wish she was laid to rest at Oxford beside a much-loved brother; the first part of the funeral service was held in Chelsea Old Church. This lovely old church was bright that morning with sunlight and brought with flowers, tributes of gratitude and love from friends in every walk of life, who had assembled there to bid her their last farewell.

H. B.

**MISS PROVISS.**

On this page we present a portrait of Nurse Provis—former member of the St. John's House staff—a typical private nurse of the last century. What pleasurable confidence a private patient would experience, with the entry into the home of this woman, so exquisitely neat and so typically nurse like. Her sweet, calm face would inspire confidence at once. We realise that changes there must be, but we would that fundamental changes in the characteristics and appearance of private nurses might not follow too closely the somewhat fly-away fashions of our day.

Miss Provis wrote to Miss Breay: "My time at St. John's House began long ago, when Sister Dorothea was Sister Superior. I joined in Miss Lloyd's time, a very clever and kindly lady. I knew many interesting people, the able Matron of King's College Hospital very well, also I was with Nurse Rosalind Paget at Marlborough House to receive my certificate and I nursed at Kensington Palace. It is long since these events."



**NURSE PROVISS,**  
"Myself as I was."

**LEGACIES FOR NURSES.**

Mr. Harold Gundry, of Hampstead, left the bulk of his fortune of £69,000 to Miss Ada Ryan, his late wife's companion, and who had nursed him for three months before his death.

Miss Mary Page, of Sydenham Hill, left £200 to Nurse Elise Neill, of Otto House, Sydenham, and £100 for distribution amongst other members of the staff at Otto House.

The Hon. Mrs. Durant, of Emperor's Gate, S.W., left £100 to Miss Dixon, Matron of the Woodclyffe Home, Wargrave, and £100 to Miss Houghton, Matron of the Florence Nightingale Hospital.

Mr. James Herbert Dennis of Caythorpe House, Grantham, left 1,000 guineas to Nurse Mary Kathleen Coyle "as a token of her unflinching care and kindness."

The late Mr. Ernest Owers, of Brighton, left an annuity of £250 to Nurse Eva Ivy Grey, in recognition of her kindness to his late wife, and her care and attention while attending himself."

**FREE TRAMCARS FOR NURSES.**

A census of those who travel free on Brighton trams shows that 1,063, including members of the council, tram employees and pensioners, blind people and special constables, have travel passes. The privilege is now to be extended to the Brighton Queen's nurses.

"A library is a heavenly pasture in which one can find sustenance and nourishment. I am thinking particularly of 'ordinary men' like myself."

EARL BALDWIN.

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