

## THE PASSING BELL.

## MISS ELIZABETH HANDLEY.

I hope you will think it is interesting to record that one of the oldest regular readers of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, and a true daughter of the Nursing Profession, passed on to her well earned rest on Saturday, November 9th, 1940.

Elizabeth Handley had been in failing health for some time, but in her 79th year she was still gifted with the good looks and charming personality which has made her a vigorous and devoted Hospital Sister since the late 80's.

Equipped with the understanding heart she began her interesting and unselfish career at the old Liverpool Royal Infirmary, and her spirit never left it and all it stands for—although she retired many years ago to take up family responsibilities she kept in touch with her Training School and its present beloved Matron—Miss Mary Jones, who was a real friend to the hospital's "old Sisters."

How she loved to talk of the discipline of that early training in "the good old days" when the work was hard and the salary small, the patients so poverty stricken and often neglected. The Nurses of that time were heroines, for they worked under manifold difficulties and have left the young nurse of to-day a power to comfort and inspire her patients and their relations, because they went before and made her path so much easier.

"Brave living here: and then, beyond the grave,  
More life, and more adventure for the brave."

A service was held at The Home, 96, Upper Parliament Street, prior to Cremation at Anfield Cemetery. Among the chief mourners were Miss Mary Jones, Matron, Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, and Miss E. Nockolds, as well as several Sisters from the Royal Infirmary.

L. S.

## WHAT TO READ.

## MEMOIRS AND BIOGRAPHY.

- "Quietly My Captain Waits." Evelyn Eaton.
- "Lady Bessborough and Her Family Circle, 1772-1828." Edited by the Earl of Bessborough, with A. Aspinall.
- "Memoirs of a Fighting Life." Rt. Hon. Josiah C. Wedgwood.
- "Years of Content, 1858-1886." Sir George Leveson Gower.
- "Paris After the Prussians." Maxime de Camp.
- "Our Princesses at Home." Lisa Sheridan.

## FICTION.

- "Green Ladies." John Brophy.
- "Miss Granby's Secret." Eleanor Farjeon.
- "Stars on the Sea." F. Van Wyck Mason.
- "The Fall of the Axe." Philip Lindsay.
- "Not Heaven Itself." Margaret Pedler.
- "A Song of the Tide." Ernest Raymond.
- "One Two Buckle My Shoe." Agatha Christie.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

- "The Army of the Future." General de Gaulle.
- "Epic Deeds of the R.A.F." Captain A. O. Pollard, V.C.
- "The Story of the Pacific." Hendrik Van Loon.

## A WORD FOR ALL TIME.

Disguise thyself as thou wilt, still, slavery, said I thou art a bitter draught! and though thousands in all ages have been made to drink of thee, thou art no less bitter on that account—'Tis thou thrice sweet and gracious goddess, addressing myself to LIBERTY, whom all in public or in private worship, whose taste is grateful, and ever will be so, till Nature herself shall change.—STERNE: "Sentimental Journey."

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

*Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.*

3, EVELYN TERRACE,  
BRIGHTON.

To the Editor, BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am very grieved to see the attitude taken by the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING under "Nursing Echoes" to the employment of German and Austrian refugees to this country, in our hospitals. Having had a great deal to do with them, and with hospital life, I can speak with personal knowledge, and I am proud to count many of them among my friends.

They have come to this country (hitherto noted as a refuge for the persecuted for generations) having been hounded from country to country on the continent, and in many cases have suffered indescribable cruelty at the hands of the Nazis, and they are ready to give of their best to us. Surely the reopening of our hospitals to them, as long as these refugees do not take work away from our own people, will give such an opportunity to foster friendliness and also to help them to regain their faith, hope and self-respect as may never again occur if lost, and in addition to lay the foundation of lasting friendship which will be of untold value when the difficult task of building up peace and good will has to be tackled. If bitterness and cruelty are fostered by us who call ourselves Christians, what hope is there for the future of distracted Europe or our own Empire?—and may I say it to our shame, that the only bitterness I have so far encountered is among us of the older generation.

Surely those whose friends have been "murdered and their homes smashed" have additional reason for sympathy with those whose relatives have been, and are being, tortured and murdered with unspeakable cruelty and they themselves cast out into an unfriendly world, robbed of all they possess, by the self-same people who are perpetrating the deeds of horror in this country. We, at any rate, are at war with them, whereas the others have only the crime of upholding the Christian faith or being born a Jew.

I much hope that you will see your way to write something which may counteract the impression made by your article: "Who is my neighbour?"

Yours truly,

S. A. GRIFFITH, F.B.C.N.

[The paragraphs to which Miss S. A. Griffith objects will be found in the second and third columns of the "Echoes" in our last issue, and we of course stand by every word written, with an intimate knowledge of the facts.

The truth is that the pacifist policy of recent Governments has brought this country to a fight for its existence, and that policy, if persisted in, means defeat.

We have information from reliable sources that when war was declared in September, 1939, this country was saturated with spies, and quite frankly our patriotic instinct has little sympathy with nationals who, because personally injured, are prepared for their own benefit to serve those at war with their own people. Some 70,000 aliens, mostly of Germanic origin, are now in our midst. Let them be cared for, if needs be; but that the helpless sick within our hospitals, and our nurses, whether they approve or not, shall be compelled, by our Minister of Health, to associate with them is a species of tyranny against which we shall not cease to protest.—ED.]

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