

THE PASSING BELL.

NURSES LOSE A FRIEND.

It is with the sincerest sorrow that we report the death, on November 27th, at Sutton Courtenay, of George Berens-Dowdswell, Priest, in his 80th year, whose funeral took place there on Friday, November 30th last.

Members of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., will remember that, before the War, Mr. and Mrs. Berens-Dowdswell attended the delightful social functions held annually in London, when he invariably said grace, and took the kindest interest in our policy in the Nursing Profession, so ably supported by his charming wife, formerly Miss Eveline Hunter, S.R.N., trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and later Matron of Cray Valley Hospital, St. Mary Cray, Kent.

After marriage, Mrs. Berens-Dowdswell has for many years kept a warm interest in her profession, as a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association and of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., and her colleagues will, we feel sure, wish to convey to her their affectionate sympathy in her bereavement.

"Above all, believe it, the sweetest canticle is *Nunc dimittis* when a man hath obtained worthy ends and expectations. Death hath this also, that it openeth the gate of good fame and extinguisheth envy."

SIR FRANCIS BACON.

ANOTHER FRIEND OF HUMANITY HAS PASSED.

Readers who remember poems published in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING by Miss Alice Morgan will regret that the lines on page 133 are the last we shall be privileged to have, as she died in her sleep on September 9th, in her eighty-third year. Miss Morgan, after surmounting many difficulties, used her great gifts, as the owner of a Preparatory School; and her devotion to the welfare of her pupils was such that many reached eminence, and her high spiritual influence passed with them to manhood.

After a long life of thoughtfulness for others—she sleeps well.

ARMY NURSING SERVICE.

We very sincerely regret to announce the death of Sister M. Cooper, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R., previously reported missing, now known to have died from Beri-Beri and Malaria on June 25th, 1945, whilst in captivity in Sumatra.

Sister Cooper trained at the Adelaide Hospital, Dublin, from 1935 to 1939, and was enrolled as a Sister in Q.A.I.M.N.S.R., November 20th, 1939. She embarked for service in the Far East September 28th, 1941.

WHAT TO READ.

MEMOIRS AND BIOGRAPHY.

"The Laurel and the Thorn." A Study of G. F. Watts.

FICTION.

"Canal Town." Samuel Hopkins Adams.

"Saplings." Noel Streatfeild.

"What Next." Winifred Graham.

"The Coming of Carew." Bruce Grahame.

"The House in Cleve Street." Mary Lavin.

"Solitary Star." S. M. Child.

"Magical was the Moment." John Paddy Carstairs.

"The House Without the Door." Elizabeth Daly.

"Miss Bunting." Angela Thirbell.

MISCELLANEOUS.

"Prisoner in Japan." Phyllis Argall.

"Slavery and Freedom." Nicolas Berdiga.

"Behold Our Green Mansions." Richard and H. D. Becker.

"Round the Shires." Martin S. Briggs, F.R.I.B.A.

"Letters to a Returning Service Man." J. B. Priestley.

"Farewell Campo 12." Brigadier Hargest.

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.

GRENFELL ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

MEDICAL WORK AMONGST BRITISH SETTLERS IN LABRADOR AND NORTHERN NEWFOUNDLAND.

66, Victoria Street,

London, S.W.1.

November 9th, 1945.

DEAR EDITOR,—Thank you so much for the splendid notice which you have inserted in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

We are, indeed, most grateful to you for the help you have given to the work in this way, and from which we have already derived benefit.

The donation which we received from the Council of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., was very much appreciated by us, and we would like again to express to you our thanks for your help and interest.

Yours sincerely,

R. C. COLLINS.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND.

224-6-8, Great Portland Street,

London, W.1.

October 15th, 1945.

DEAR EDITOR,—Please accept my most cordial thanks for your very kind response to my appeal. We are all profoundly thankful that victory has been won. During the war we cared for those who were blinded by enemy action. Thanks to the support given by you and other generous friends of the blind, we shall continue to care for them and in the new conditions of peace do all in our power to ensure that every blind person in the country has full opportunity of living happily and usefully.

Yours very truly,

E. B. B. TOWSE.

RESISTANCE IN THE OFFING.

DEAR MADAM,—I have made a point of asking suitable young women why they do not adopt nursing as their profession and have oftentimes been told: "The training of four years is too long, and somehow girls are too much controlled by rules and regulations," or "beyond everything I should like a home and children of my own. Women were created to be mothers, and only half fulfil their destiny if they are not."

Now I notice the new Minister of Health is attempting to enforce a very tyrannical arrangement—that having fulfilled four years most arduous work, under great physical strain—a Registered Nurse shall be compelled to work in infectious hospitals, or otherwise for a fifth year. It is to be hoped that this slave state will be prevented. It is an intolerable recommendation and should be strenuously resisted by every liberty-loving person.

The people who make these recommendations for working women would be the last to tolerate such tyranny themselves. Why do not the Matrons' organisations realise the demoralisation of such a system and make a protest against it? I cannot learn that they have done so.

I gather that in London, although *sub rosa*, and openly in many country districts, Nurses are eager to form organisations entirely uncontrolled by senior officials, and that five years' compulsion will not be tolerated by its members.

Yours sincerely,

A HOSPITAL VISITOR.

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