

THE PASSING OF A LOYAL FRIEND AND ALLY.

MISS E. F. BROWNSDON, S.R.N., S.C.M., F.B.C.N.

It is with deepest regret that we have to record the passing of Miss Ellen F. Brownsdon, S.R.N., a Fellow of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., since its inception.

Miss Brownsdon held the certificate of the Lewisham Hospital, and the Health Visitors' Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, and was a State Certified Midwife.

As an organiser in connection with the treatment centres in the care of school children, it is not too much to say that she ranked as one of our modern pioneers, and in this work so dear to her heart she remained for some 25 years a devoted servant of the London County.

She was a woman of great public spirit and had taken a keen interest in national and international nursing organisations. As a Director of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, she attended several of the International Quadrennial meetings, and was one of the four official delegates of our National Council deputed to take part in the meeting of the International Council of Nurses in Montreal in 1929.

To know Miss Brownsdon as an intimate colleague was to realise in her calm, gentle exterior that she possessed shrewd, humane judgment in all things, and her unswerving loyalty was an inspiration to those with whom she came in contact.

As an ardent supporter and admirer of the late Ethel Gordon Fenwick, in the stand for professional status and independence of the Nursing Profession, she thrice served as a Councillor of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., and contributed much expert knowledge to its deliberations.

It is with a pang that we continue our work, ever reminded of a keen sense of loss, that such lovely spirits travel on; and we who are left must find solace in the example of such selfless devotion.

A. STEWART BRYSON.

MISS CONSTANCE WATNEY, M.B.E., C.O.C., S.R.N., M.B.C.N.

Miss Constance Watney, M.B.E., C.O.C., S.R.N., M.B.C.N., who died on November 23rd, 1947, was the fourth daughter of the late Norman Watney of Westerham. Early in life she dedicated herself to missionary work, and for this purpose trained as a nurse at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. In 1906 she went as a student of midwifery to Clapham Maternity Hospital and took her C.M.B. Examination. In 1908 she was accepted by C.M.S. and sent out to Kampala, Uganda, where she worked in the Mayo Hospital under Dr., later Sir, Albert Cook. In 1918 this hospital, in addition to its missionary work, served as a base hospital for the fighting in East Africa, and for her share of the very heavy work "Sister Connie," as she was called, received the M.B.E. About 1920 a new beginning was made for missionary work in Ruanda, in Belgian territory, and Sister Connie volunteered for that pioneering venture, helping to start a

hospital under very difficult conditions in Kigezi under Dr. A. Spencer Smith. For nursing an official of the Belgian Government, she was awarded the very rare honour of Croix de l'Ordre de la Couronne; but in 1923 she contracted a very severe form of Bright's Disease and was invalided home, never to return. She was told her life must henceforth be that of an invalid, but her heart was too much in nursing to give it up, and she went back to Clapham, where she had received her maternity training, and worked in various capacities there under Dr. Annie McCall until the hospital was bombed in 1940. Since that date, she had devoted herself to Dr. McCall.

Her colleagues in the British College of Nurses, Ltd., are indeed proud to have been associated with Miss Watney, whose self sacrifice and devotion to duty knew no bounds.

We can ill afford to bid farewell to two such outstanding members of our noble profession.

SISTER E. FLECK.

We deeply regret to announce the death on November 22nd, 1947, of Sister E. Fleck, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve.

Miss Fleck trained at the Kent County Mental Hospital, 1934-39, and the Central Middlesex Hospital, 1939-41. She joined Q.A.I.M.N.S.R. in March, 1945, and served in India, the Far East, and on the Hospital Ship, Somersetshire.

RECORD RESPONSE TO MIDWIVES' QUESTIONNAIRE.

The Midwifery Working Party has received acknowledgment of 90 per cent. of the questionnaires, sent to 17,500 midwives in August. In over 80 per cent. the questions, which deal with a midwife's work, have been answered; less than 10 per cent. came back as "dead letters."

It is believed that this response creates a record, either in this country or America, for a professional inquiry of this kind.

Replies to a second questionnaire, sent to 2,880 midwives who qualified in 1946, are still coming in, and it is expected that the percentage of answers will be as high, if not higher, than for the main group.

The Working Party, set up by the Minister of Health and the Secretary of State for Scotland last April to investigate and report on problems of midwifery, are using the questionnaires to collect information and opinions from as large a cross section of the profession as possible.

Mrs. Stocks, Chairman of the Working Party, said recently: "We are extremely gratified by this remarkable support. The information will be of the utmost value to us in framing our recommendations. There is little doubt that this successful response is in part due to the very helpful co-operation we have had from the Press in making our inquiry known. It also typifies the fine spirit to be found in the profession—that, despite the heavy demands of work, midwives are ready and willing to give time and trouble to supplying facts and figures of this kind."



The Late MISS E. F. BROWNSDON, S.R.N., S.C.M., F.B.C.N.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)