

ISLE OF WIGHT TIMES Thursday 20th June 1963

FUNERAL OF FORMER HOSPITAL MATRON

Floral tributes from her many colleagues in the hospital service were sent to the Stoneham Crematorium, Southampton on Thursday at the service for Miss **Alys Kate LAST**, of 16 Adelaide Place, Ryde, matron of the Royal I.W. County Hospital from 1936-1946. Island born, Miss LAST died at the Queen Alexandra Hospital, Portsmouth, following an operation.

Nursing Career

Miss LAST originally trained as a school teacher, but after the outbreak of the 1914-18 war she decided on a nursing career, undergoing training at St. Thomas's Hospital, London. After the war she went to Greece as tutor and nurse to the young son of a wealthy Greek family. Resuming her nursing career in this country she became sister-tutor at the King Edward VII Hospital, Birmingham, then was appointed in a similar capacity at St. Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth.

In July 1936 she was appointed matron of the Royal I.W. County Hospital, and was injured during the air raid in the last war when bombs were dropped on nearby Swanmore. Later an arm was amputated. She retired from the County Hospital in August 1946.

Despite her physical handicap, Miss LAST showed characteristic courage. She was a regular worshipper at St. Michael's Church.

Staunch Conservative

At the time of her death she was hon. secretary of the Ryde branch of the I.W. Conservative and Unionist Association, and until recently was also hon. secretary of the women's section. Tributes were paid to her at a branch committee meeting last week.

Mourners at the crematorium were: Mrs. F. SALTER, aunt; Messrs. A.C., M.W., J.H., MORRISH and Capt. H. A. DRUDGE (also representing the I.W. Conservative and Unionist Association), cousins Miss M. BACON (also representing the matron and staff at the Royal Portsmouth and Queen Alexandra Hospitals), and Mrs. H.A. DRUDGE.

Floral tributes included those from members of the House Committee and Hospital Staff of the Royal I.W. County Hospital, the Royal Portsmouth and Queen Alexandra Hospitals, Nurses' League, and the I.W. Conservative and Unionist Association.
