

John Thomas Samuel

Isle of Wight County Press - 9 September 1945

GATCOMBE

The Late Mr. J. T. Samuel. - The funeral of Mr. J. T. Samuel, chief male nurse at the County Mental Hospital, Whitecroft, took place at St. Thomas's (R.C.) Church, Newport, on Friday week, the service being conducted by the Rev Father. W. R. Lynch (R.C. chaplain at the Mental Hospital). The bearers were Dr. C. Davies-Jones (medical superintendent), Mr. T. Symons (deputy chief male nurse), Mr. P. J. Martin (charge male nurse), Mr. S. F. Shutler (deputy charge male nurse), Mr. F. C. Kelly (staff nurse), and Mr. C. Wedge (student nurse). The personal mourners were Mr. C. J. J. Samuel and Capt. H. M. Samuel (sons), Messrs. J. A. Nelson (grandson), P. Samuel (brother), J. Nelson and W. Hillier (sons-in-law), H. Wheeler (representing his sister, Mrs. Samuel, of Cowes), R. S. Curry, W. Brinton and Mrs. Gallagher. Among those also present were the Rev. J. W. F. Wayet (Anglican chaplain), the Rev. A. G. Woodnutt (Non conformist minister), Miss G. M. Mortlock (matron), Ald. W. Thompson (chairman of the Visiting Committee), Mrs. M. C. Barton, C.C., Mr. G. Norman, C.C., Mr. E. O. Kirk, C.C., Dr. Haynes (assistant medical officer), Sisters Ainsworth, Canning, McClough, and Sherry, Mr. and Mrs. F. Peach, Mrs. and Miss Kelly, and Messrs. C. Wilson, Cassford, A. S. Cass, and A. Cooper, Mrs. T. E. W. Phillips, Mrs. Sykes, Mr. G. R. Barrett, Mrs. Newbold, Miss. Urry, and Mr. H. Harris. The male patients were represented by six volunteers. A number of male patients walked in from the Hospital to the cemetery.

The following special notice was circulated to the staff by the medical superintendent (Dr. C. Davies-Jones): "The news of the sudden death of Mr. J. T. Samuel, the chief male nurse of this Hospital, will I know, come as a deep sorrow to all of us; and I cannot help feeling that you will wish me to take this opportunity of expressing, as far as I am able, my feelings, which I am sure you must all share. Although he had been ill for nearly a year, it would be quite fair to say that Mr. Samuel nevertheless 'died in harness,' and such was the wish he had often expressed to me. His heart was undoubtedly in Whitecroft. He entered the service on October 22nd, 1900, and had practically completed 45 years' service as man and boy – having been originally engaged here as a junior night attendant. I have in my possession a photograph of him when he held that post, which shows him as a curly headed boy engaged in a fire display outside one of the wards. He served under every medical superintendent of this Mental Hospital. I always found Mr. Samuel to be one of the kindest head male nurses I have ever met, and animated with a sincere keenness to do all in his power to raise the standard of the nursing and care of patients. His discipline was always tempered with mercy, and his judgement showed a shrewdness and kindness which could only be the outcome of a sincere interest in his work. His advice and help to myself was always well balanced, and any opposition was tempered with a courtesy which it will long be a pleasure for me to remember. I never knew him to shirk facing a difficulty, and when it fell to me to face up to things I always found in Mr. Samuel a staunch, loyal, and (what is very important) truthful supporter. Our deepest sympathies are extended to Mrs. Samuel and the family."

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