

Kate King May (Mrs Charles Atkinson) (1875-1933)

Kate was born in London and was trained by Madame at Hampstead, qualifying in 1894.

She worked in private practice and then embarked on her medical career. The 1911 census recorded that Kate studied at Manchester University part-time, while continuing to work as a Swedish gymnastics instructor. She qualified as a doctor in 1914. She briefly held a post at Oldham Hospital before travelling with Mrs St Clair Sobart to Serbia as one of a team of seven doctors and a staff of eighty other volunteers.

Kate returned to England in June 1915 and spent three weeks touring the county giving lectures about the work in Serbia and raising thousands of pounds for the cause. Seven motor ambulances and stretchers were donated together with Ox wagons and supplies for the dispensary

Kate returned to France and ran the field hospital at Kragujevatz in Serbia.

The UK and Ireland Medical Directory in 1930 stated she was Assistant Medical Officer for the Massage and Electrical Dept, at Manchester Royal Infirmary, Hon. Physician at the Greengate Hospital and Open Air School in Salford, Medical Officer for the Child Welfare Centre, Public Health Department. Her previous appointments included Senior Medical Officer 52nd Epidemic Hospital, Galician Front 1916-1917.

Jonathan May in his book, Madame Bergman Österberg, records that Dr Kate King May lent money to R.E. Roper to attend a course at the Central Institute in Sweden as he was not eligible to attend Madame's college. He eventually became the first PE. Specialist at Bedales in 1913 and taught there for ten years.