

In Memoriam

MISS R. H. GREENALL

On August 2nd. 1939, the sudden death occurred of Miss R. H. Greenall, Principal of the Bergman-Osterberg Physical Training College, Dartford, at the early age of 51.

Miss Greenall, with her characteristic reserve and courage, had for several years put up a splendid fight against an illness which was unsuspected by all but her closest friends, and even to them her sudden relapse and rapid death a week after her last operation came as a great shock.

Herself an old Dartford student and the first professional Principal since the death of the College founder, Madam Osterberg, in 1915, Miss Greenall held the post from 1930 until her death. She left her position as one of H.M.'s Inspectors of Physical Training and took over the management of her old college at the most critical time in its history. To a person of Miss Greenall's independent character the acceptance of a resident post in an institution meant a real sacrifice, and both personally and professionally she found the first years hard. But she was a practical idealist, understanding and believing in Madame's own conception of physical training; she steered the college safely through a difficult period, and achieved for it again the position, prestige and success it now enjoys.

We can be thankful that she lived to see some of the results of her work, for those of us who knew Dartford in the old days can say truthfully that never since Madame's own time has the

standard of work and general atmosphere been better, nor the policy, ideals and integrity of motive been more clearly defined.

Miss Greenall's interests and influence were widespread, and she was always ready to extend her own support and that of the college to national and local "fitness" efforts.

Above all she believed firmly and wholeheartedly in the educative value of physical education, and stressed the need for a sound academic basis. All new ideas she tested with keen intellectual discrimination. So often in the history of physical education the balance has tipped between narrowness on the one side and a belittling of the over-academic attitude on the other. Miss Greenall kept the balance steady and she perhaps more than anyone in the gymnastic world interpreted Madam's own conception of a physical education which by its own merits was fundamentally educative.

In all her work Miss Greenall had the finest cooperation from her friend, senior teacher and Vice-Principal, Miss MacLaren. Between these two was splendid team work, complementary, unselfish and devoted to college interests.

Of Miss Greenall's personality much could be written and memories of personal contact are indelible. Alert, vital, keenly intellectual, shrewd in her estimate both of character and

policies, Miss Greenall was an individualist who had widened her own personality to embrace a broad ideal of life. She loved life, health and vitality; she was a fighter and a very gallant fighter. She was proud and she won for her college the right of pride.

Anna Broman

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