

[*Cambridge Chronicle and University Journal*, 23 January 1924, p.7 – in several places, the text is unclear]

**IN MEMORIAM
THE LATE MISS HANNAH OSBORN.**

It is a large circle of grateful friends who mourn the death of that remarkable woman, Miss Hannah Osborn, which occurred on January 7th.

Forty years ago she came to Cambridge as the early friend of Miss Street (first head mistress of the Perse School for Girls) in association with whom she gave voluntary lessons that were unique, over a long period. She was a born teacher with an amazing store of learning. Religious knowledge, history, literature, geography, music, hymnology, were all a passion with her, and imparted with charm and ardent zeal. True, a class might be sometimes bewildered by the ramifications from the set subject, but in after years pupils have borne witness to the inspiration then given.

Her father, the late Rev. George Osborn, D.D., of Richmond, Surrey, was an accomplished scholar, from whose library she early sought knowledge and delight. In 1865 she went to Rheims where Holden's wool-factory employed a colony of 100 English together with 1,000 French. As teacher in the factory school, Miss Osborn fostered a true entente between the two nationalities, and out of her children's singing-class there developed a choral society of the parents and a brass band, of which she was the moving spirit, and through it introduced Handel to the French part of the audience.

Five years ago she gave in Cambridge a very beautiful and suggestive lecture on "Some spiritual foundations in France for the entente cordiale,["] as seen in the biographies of the best men and women of all ranks at the beginning of the 19th Century. Her extraordinary power of visualising the people of past times and making them live again, was something of an artist's gift.

Another lecture of rare appeal was upon "Hymns and Hymnbooks," illustrating her wide and deep knowledge and discrimination. An immense number of hymns learnt as a child, she knew by heart all through life. Her devotion both to the ancient ones from Greek or Latin, and to those of the two Wesleys, especially, among modern writers, stood her in good stead in her declining years. Up to the last, at the age of 87, she was playing the well-loved tunes with that spiritual quality and vigour that were all her own.

How generous she was in lending her precious books, as well as in alms-giving, and how eager to rouse the phlegmatic or indolent to enthusiasm over this subject or that. Her missionary sympathies, too, were of the keenest. For many years she did much on behalf of the Universities' Mission to Central Africa, and always took an active interest in the S. P. G. In politics she was a Conservative, with readiness to welcome necessary reforms. A word must be added to record her worth as a philatelist. How often one would find the little old lady enjoying her well-filled stampbooks, poring over the details of the designs, with the learning of the historian as well as the collector. Increasing deafness with a fear of blindness clouded recent years, while walking became more difficult and solitude irksome; so that when the time came to rest, even those who so miss her the most, could not wish her a longer time of waiting.

Her funeral service was on Friday January 11th, at St. Barnabas Church. The officiating clergy were the Rev. [...] H. Norman, the Rev. J. B. S. B[....] (Miss Osborn's nephew), Vicar [of] Brampton. The hymn sung was "Peace Perfect Peace," the one she frequently asked for of late. The burial by her wish, was in the grave of her life-long friend, Miss Street, in Mill Road Cemetery. Wreaths and flowers were sent by the Old Perseans, the Rev. Dr. Hort, one of the

f[ounde]rs[;] Misses Irene and Stephanie Barratt; Mrs. and Miss Hort and Mrs. George Chitty; the Misses Kirkman; Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Osborn; Mrs. Saint; Miss Pandford; Mrs. Spens; Mrs. [Webb]er; and some gave memorial gifts to the poor. Of the family there were present: Mrs. Strutt (sister), Mr. Raymond Strutt and Mr. Geo. Osborn [(nep]hews), Mrs. Geo. Osborn, Mrs. [...] and Miss Stephanie Barratt [...]), the Rev. W. O. Barratt and [....]ll Martin (nephews), and Sir [Row]land Adkins (cousin). Among others were Miss Mary Darwood (maid), the Misses Kirkman, Mrs. Piggott, Miss Ellen Hort, representing Mrs. Hort absent through illness (widow of the Rev. Dr. Hort, one of the founders of the Girls' Perse), Miss Conybeare, Miss E. Warrington, Secretary of the Old Perseans' Guild, Mrs. J. O. F. Murray, Mrs. Walker, Miss Christine Elliott, Mrs. Ingle, Miss Greenwood, and other Old Perseans. But for the Christmas holidays, the attendance would have been much larger.

The funeral arrangements were carried out by Messrs. R. Sayle and Co.
