Mid-Sussex Times 26th November 1918 page 1

A wave of deep sadness spread through the village of Bolney on Monday of last week, when it became known that Miss Mead, the highly respected headmistress of the Church Schools, had passed away, having succumbed to pneumonia, following influenza. She opened school as usual on the morning of 11th, but was unable to continue through the day and retired to bed. The school followed a normal course until Thursday, when symptoms developed, pneumonia supervening on the following day. She passed away peacefully on the morning of the 18th. The deceased was the youngest daughter of the late Captain James Mead of Shorwell and Mortgate, and of Mrs. Mead, of Bolney, formerly of Hastings. Trained at the Rose Hill Training College, she had become head mistress of St. Philip's Schools, Bexhill, and her position was followed by her having been at head mistress at Broomham and Camber Schools, from 1913 to the end of the war. She was appointed head mistress of the School in 1910, and soon won her way to the affection of the children by whom she was greatly beloved at the time of her passing. It was much lamented in swimming and sports of all kinds, and in the general welfare of the children, and was at one time assistant secretary of the Eastbourne Ladies' Tennis Club and also a member of the Poetry and Literature Society. Creatively interested in the Girl Guides, as a Company being formed at Bolney the late was appointed Lieutenant. She was an active church worker, and greatly loved by all with whom she came in contact. The funeral took place on Friday, the first part of the service being taken at the Parish Church, where the Vicar (the Rev. W. M. Moore) officiated. The funeral cortege was met at the school entrance by the Churchwardens and elders, and also by the local Girl Guides, under the command of Ethel Andrews (Infant School mistress), who formed a guard of honour. The path to the Church was lined by the school children, in charge of Miss Pratt and Miss Hackett (infant mistress). Miss Richardson was at the organ, and as the body was being borne into the Church and the large congregation took their seats, she gave a most sympathetic rendering of "Host are the departed, from Sorrow's Last Judgment." The Sied Psalm was chanted and the hymn "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," sung during the service, and at the conclusion of the service the body was finally given to the Child. The service was conducted and the body conveyed through the churchyard, and at the gate to a motor hearse preparatory to being conveyed to Ditchling Cemetery, Eastbourne, for interment in the family grave. The coffin was of polished oak, and the brass plate bears the inscription:

Ruth Elizabeth Mead
Bolney November 14th, 1918

In her 49th year.

The funeral arrangements were the Rev. Ethel W. Stansfield (vicar). Mrs. H. E. Mead (step-daughter), and Mrs. C. Mead (niece). Owing to recent illness and shock, the deceased's mother was unable to be present. In the large congregation were included Mrs. E. Isher School Manager, Mrs. W. E. Mead, Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. and Miss D. Kimber, Mrs. Langford, Mrs. F. T. Payne, Miss M. Smith, Miss D. Saunders, Mr. J. F. Fuller (the Rector, St. John's Church), and Mrs. V. Martin. The following were among the members of the floral tributes received:


The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. F. T. Awoojie.

Mrs. Mead and family wish to tender their very sincere thanks to the residents of Bolsey for their expressions of sympathy and also for the beautiful local tributes sent.