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Sister M. Adelaide Ochs

Consternation prevailed today at Mercy Hospital, Urbana, Illinois, when our Sister Adelaide Ochs, suffering cardio-vascular collapse at the end of spinal surgery that was considered "successful," died at 12:32 p.m. in the operating room. Every effort was made to counteract the collapse--injections, blood transfusion, blood plasma--but to no avail.

Surgery was for a ruptured intervertebral disc, Sister had had. She had an operation for this trouble a year and a half ago at Columbus. No fusion operation was performed at that time, as the surgeon, Dr. Ridgeway, expected her to be able to compensate and with the passing of time to recover completely. This was not the case. The backache continuing, Dr. Ross, her surgeon at Urbana, and Dr. Ridgeway at Columbus agreed that the fusion was necessary to relieve the pain. Sister herself was anxious to have the operation that she might recover through the spring and summer and be ready for school in September. Mother Immaculate visited her at the hospital the evening before surgery and asked whether she would like to defer the operation, for it would be a serious one. She chose to "go through with it."

Sister had received Communion that morning and made special preparation. When the emergency arose, the chaplain was summoned; he arrived at once and anointed her. Death followed in just a few minutes. Sister Miriam Edward was with her as special nurse. She accompanied the body home, with Mr. Dames in charge.

Sister Adelaide was this year stationed at St. Joseph's, Pesotum, which was her home parish. She had spent the summer there to rest, and in August was given her appointment for that school.

In Sister Adelaide's death the Community lost an outstanding primary teacher, pleasant and capable. Her classes, usually large ones, were orderly and the children alert and responsive. It was always clear that she loved her classes and had in turn gained their love. Since the beginning of her teaching career in 1932 she had prepared many groups for First Holy Communion, and took special joy in this phase of her work.

She had been stationed in Joliet, Chicago, Hubbard Woods, Rock Island, Payne, and Columbus. At Columbus, Msgr. E. A. Burkley recalled her work at St. Mary's with gratitude and made arrangements to fly to Joliet for the funeral, but the weather was unfavorable and the flight was canceled.

Sister's death occurred in the forty-first year of her life and her twenty-fifth year in religion. Funeral services were held in the Motherhouse Chapel on January 5 at 9:30 a.m. The Most Rev. Martin D. McNamara presided at the Solemn Requiem Mass which was celebrated by Rev. Alphonse Coan, OFM. Rev. Garcias Behnen and Rev. Benedict McCarthy, OFM, were deacon and subdeacon. Chaplains to the Bishop were Rev. John D. Sullivan of Joliet and Rev. Gregory Egan of St. Joseph, Pesotum. Rev. Armand Rotondi was assistant priest at the throne and Rev. Thomas B. O'Keefe was master of ceremonies.

Burial was at Mount Olivet cemetery, Joliet, Father Alphonse officiating at the grave.