

# THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED  
**THE NURSING RECORD**  
EDITED BY MRS BEDFORD FENWICK

No. 1,042.

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 1908.

Vol. XL.

## Editorial.

### THE FREE SISTER OF THE CITY OF LONDON.

Monday was Nurses' Day in the City of London, when the Red Cross Flag, emblem of their calling, floated over its Guildhall, in which were gathered the Lord Mayor and members of the Corporation to honour one whose work for humanity has led to the alleviation of so much human suffering—Florence Nightingale. So within the Council Chamber were assembled not only the City Fathers, but numerous groups of well-known nurses to witness the honour to be conferred on their profession through its distinguished representative.

The Right Honourable the City Chamberlain, in addressing Mr. L. H. Shore-Nightingale and asking his acceptance (as representing Miss Nightingale) of the Casket containing the Resolution offering to her the Honorary Freedom of the City, said:—

“We thus proclaim our admiration of her life-long work and lofty aims, and she stands out in the annals of all time as one of the noblest characters in our country's history.

“We meet to do honour to this heroine; but our feelings are not devoid of regret. Owing to advanced years and impaired health, Miss Nightingale is prevented attending in our ancient Guildhall, and is therefore precluded from participating in the hearty and sincere welcome which awaited her at the hands of her fellow countrymen and women and being greeted as a ‘Free Sister’ of the City of London. We further regret that, owing to some unexplained omission, the Honorary Freedom—the highest honour in the gift of the Corporation—was not conferred upon her by a previous generation half a century ago, when she was in health and strength

and able thoroughly to appreciate and enjoy it.

“We to-day endeavour to repair as far as possible the laches of our predecessors, and lapse of time does not detract in the smallest degree from the sincerity with which we desire to pay our tribute to the life-work of this incomparable lady.”

Referring to the time when Miss Nightingale studied nursing, the Chamberlain said:

“In those days our nursing arrangements were little short of non-existent. Those who were called nurses neither possessed the knowledge, the aptitude, nor the necessary tenderness to render real assistance and comfort to the sick.

“How different to those devoted ladies who give their lives to this noble work in our day, and who follow so conscientiously the objects aimed at by Miss Nightingale, the initiator and pioneer of our nursing system.

“The strides made in medicine and surgery during the last thirty years would never have been achieved without the co-operation of the trained, unselfish, tender, and able ladies now an ornament to this country in the cause of humanity, whom we call hospital nurse.”

“By the addition of Miss Nightingale's name to our Roll of Fame we citizens are honoured. She will find there the names of many great leaders and warriors, but in coming ages none will shine brighter than that of Florence Nightingale.”

Mr. L. H. Shore-Nightingale briefly replied on behalf of his illustrious relative, and said that though Miss Nightingale was unable to be present to acknowledge the gift of the City, she was deeply gratified by it. The City had shown its appreciation of her character by enclosing its Resolution in an oaken Casket instead of a golden one, and giving her a cheque for the sum which

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)