

## NIGHTINGALE DAY.

On May 12th, Miss Florence Nightingale's birthday, her statue in Waterloo Place, W., was wreathed around with flowers, and that placed at the base for the International Council of Trained Nurses, composed of glorious crimson roses, purple iris and palms, was sweet and lovely, and we feel sure the members grouped in National Councils all over the world, including that of Great Britain and Ireland, will be gratified to know that in their name due honour was done to the Founder of trained nursing. The card was inscribed "In Reverent Memory."

The National Union of Trained Nurses sent a tribute which reproduced their green star badge, with white narcissus and green leaves, as "A Tribute of Affection." The Nightingale Nursing School at St. Thomas's Hospital sent, "With Love from her past and present Sisters and Nurses," a simple and beautiful chaplet of roses and palm leaves. The London Sisters and Nurses sent four wreaths. Many prominent women's societies offered floral homage—journalists, teachers, and social reformers—all of whom share the reflected glory of her mentality.

### COMMEMORATION MEETING.

On the evening of May 12th, under the auspices of the Women's Freedom League, a meeting was held at the Essex Hall to commemorate the ninety-fifth anniversary of the great woman who founded scientific professional nursing. Much regret was expressed by the chairman, Miss Anna Munro, at the unavoidable absence of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and Mrs. Marion Holmes. She reminded her audience that meetings of Branches of the League to commemorate "one of the greatest women of the world" were being held simultaneously in Liverpool, Manchester, Glasgow, Middlesbrough, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Reading and other towns. Two of the speakers, namely, Miss Nina Boyle and Miss Townsend (Women Teachers' Franchise League) owed to allegiance to the memory of Florence Nightingale through inheritance; the fathers of both of them had been under her care during the Crimean War, and owed their lives to her. Miss Boyle spoke with her usual eloquence, and in her customary breezy and buoyant manner. Wreaths had been laid that day at the foot of the statue she said, but the authorities had refused permission to hold any ceremony. (This is quite in keeping with their stupidity and indifference in refusing permission for a ceremonious unveiling.) She voiced the opinion of many people in her adverse criticism of the statue; both the design and the way in which it was carried out showed a lack of inspiration. Miss Boyle emphasised the importance of Florence Nightingale's work as a *reformer*, and the difficulties she encountered.

She had the soul of the reformer, and withstood and overcame them. "Reformers are always disliked, there is always the crowd ready to crucify him, crucify him! and yet the reformer never dies. There never was an age or a time

when there were no reformers ready to face misunderstanding, ignominy and insult."

"She tackled such big things," remarked Miss Winifred Mayo of the Actresses' Franchise League. "She was never afraid of anything, she had such tremendous courage."

Surgeon-General Evatt, whom we all like to hear because he was an intimate friend of Florence Nightingale, moved the following resolution, which was carried unanimously:—

"That this meeting places on record its deep appreciation of the immense services rendered to the nation by Florence Nightingale, and the tremendous object lesson given by her in the value of women's work in all national affairs."

In a few impassioned words he spoke of the great admiration he felt for the character and work of this highly educated (and statesmanlike) woman who turned physicians and surgeons into health officers, and had a huge brain loaded with knowledge. It was left to Mrs. Fenwick Miller to point out what is apt to be overlooked—that she was a *great statesman*, and that no new Governor-General was allowed to go out to India without being first sent to Florence Nightingale to be taught his lesson, as long as her health and strength permitted. As was fitting at a Suffrage meeting, she reminded her hearers that she whose memory we were honouring was a Suffragist, and hers was one of the three or four names that always led a petition to the Government for Women's Suffrage. Several other speakers paid a fitting tribute of respect and honour, and the very interesting meeting terminated. We regret that more nurses were not present. B. K.

## THE NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

A very successful meeting of the National Union of Trained Nurses was held on Tuesday, May 11th, when Miss Eden and Miss Thurstan visited the Cambridge Branch.

By kind permission of Colonel J. Griffiths the meeting took place in the Recreation Room at the 1st Eastern General Hospital. There was a good attendance of members, and several of the staff of the Territorial Nursing Service were also present.

Miss Thurstan, who needed no introduction to Cambridge, received a hearty welcome, and gave a very impressive account of her experiences in Belgium and Poland; she also showed several interesting trophies from both countries, including a copy of the last paper printed in Brussels before the German entry.

Miss Newton, the Matron, then entertained everyone to tea in the delightful grounds of the Hospital, which is built on the open-air hut system.

A collection was made in aid of the Urgency Cases Hospital in France, and the Central Fund of the National Union of Trained Nurses, and it was unanimously agreed that a most enjoyable afternoon had been spent.

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