

Friday, July 17th, 1953.

10 a.m.

Closing Session.

Presiding : Miss Gerda Höjer, retiring President, I.C.N.

Address by the retiring President, who gives the " Watch-word " for the next four-year period.

Introduction of new President.

Address by the new President.

Announcement of date and place of next Quadrennial Congress.

Votes of thanks.

The President pronounces the adjournment of the Congress.

Memories of Florence Nightingale.

She being dead, yet speaketh.

SOME YEARS AGO, readers will recall, South Street in London was pulled down to widen Regent Street. With South Street went the house in which Florence Nightingale had spent the last 30 years of her life. Her wonderful work for the improvement of hygiene and living conditions for the British Army, as well as the reform of the Nursing profession was done in this house. People from all over the world came here to consult her and from this house went out influences that spread health and vigour to countless millions.

The British College of Nurses managed to secure some of the bricks from the house, and Nurses in various parts of the Empire were eager to have a brick to incorporate in new nurses' buildings as they arose in different centres.

The Nurses' Association of China was granted one when their official headquarters was built in Nanking, and the brick was displayed near the entrance.

In 1938 a new Nurses' School building was erected in one of the oldest training Schools for Nurses and they were desirous of having a brick in memory of Miss Nightingale. Great was their delight when the British College of Nurses consented to send them one. The architect was keenly interested and beautifully fitted the brick into a special little alcove above the platform in the Nurses' Lecture Hall, with an inscription in both Chinese and English on the wall below.

The great day of the opening of the new building took place in July, 1940. One of the speakers was a distinguished Chinese doctor who congratulated the nurses on their lovely new building, but told them that their most precious possession in it was the brick from Miss Nightingale's house.

We have all been moved and somewhat surprised at the deep reverence the Chinese people paid to Miss Nightingale as they grew to know of her work.

Another well known Chinese medical man came to visit the hospital before he left the country. He was one of the many who evacuated with the Nationalist Government to Formosa. He saw the Nightingale brick in its alcove on the wall, and standing on a chair, he placed his fingers upon it and stood in silent homage for a while.

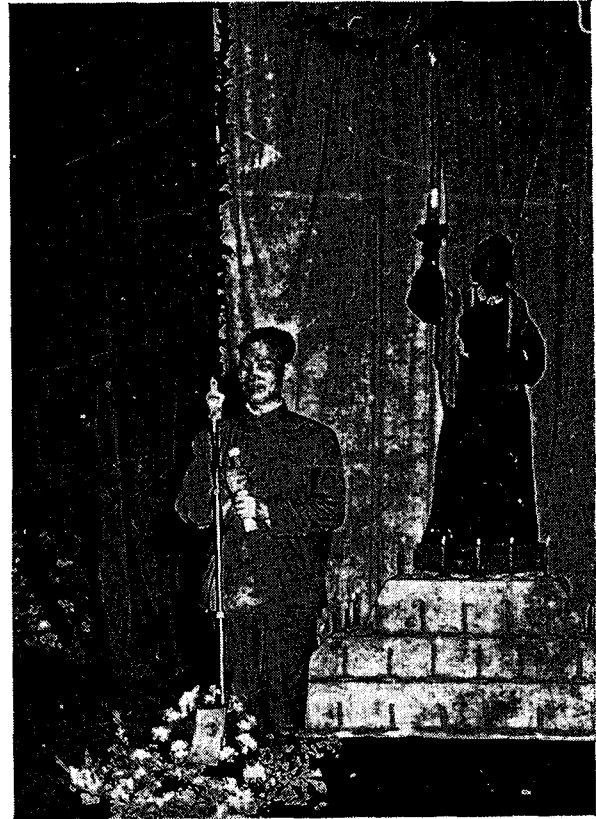
It had become the custom to hold the Nurses' Graduation ceremonies on May 12th, Florence Nightingale's birthday, under the auspices of the influential Nurses' Association of China.

When the new régime came, the Nurses' Association activities were forbidden, then later the medical, nursing, dental, etc., etc., associations, were all organised into a political medical workers' union.

The nurses feared that they would not be permitted to keep the Nurses' Festival on Florence Nightingale's birthday, but were surprised to be told that Miss Nightingale was born in Russia and they could continue to keep her birthday.

We have since heard that Medical Day in China which used to be kept on Dr. Sun Yat Sen's birthday, is now to be kept on May 12th, Florence Nightingale's birthday.

The National Government's Hospitals, Medical and Nursing Schools evacuated to Formosa. The Nurses' Association has been re-organised there and they already have over 300 members.



The Statuette of Florence Nightingale Chinese Nurses made for their Association.

The illustration shows a statue of Miss Nightingale which they made themselves, on the platform, at the Nurses' Graduation ceremony, and the Premier is speaking into the microphone to the large and distinguished audience of guests seated before him who have come to congratulate and rejoice with the Nurses. May 12th, 1952.

Hospital Matron's Tour in Turkey and Cyprus.

MISS LUCY DUFF GRANT, S.R.N., Matron of the Manchester Royal Infirmary, is visiting Turkey and Cyprus under the auspices of the British Council to lecture on nursing.

She will be in Turkey, where arrangements have been made in collaboration with the Turkish Ministry of Health, from February 5th to March 4th, and will go to Istanbul, Izmir, Ankara and Kayseri, visiting hospitals and giving lectures and advisory talks. Her three main subjects are: the history of British nursing and the part played by the nursing profession in the National Health Service; the recruitment and training of the student nurse and the standards required for admission to the profession; and the branches of the profession open to the qualified nurse and the various post-certificate courses available.

Miss Duff Grant will be in Cyprus from March 4th to 11th, and will visit hospitals and lecture both to medical audiences and to the public.

Miss Duff Grant is well known in this country; she is the President of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Chairman of the Education Committee of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)