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GREETINGS TO OUR READERS

I HAVE the privilege and the honour to wish all our readers, at home or far away beyond the seas, a very Happy Christmas in the name of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. We also wish them many blessings, both general and special, at this very happy season.

Also to our dear Queen and Her Royal Consort, we also send our loyal Christmas greetings, coupled with an expression of deep appreciation for the shining example of devotion to duty which they have set.

Florence Nightingale Centenary Service.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY was well filled with a representative congregation of nurses of the Armed Forces of the Crown; nurses from civilian and State hospitals; and from the various fields of nursing, on Thursday, November 4th, 1954, on the occasion of the Florence Nightingale Centenary. There were also present representatives of the Cabinet; Rt. Hon. C. R. and Mrs. Attlee; Rt. Hon. A. H. Head (Secretary of State for War) and Lady Dorothea Head; Miss P. Hornsby-Smith, M.P.; Field-Marshal Sir John Harding (Chief of the Imperial General Staff) and Lady Harding; General Sir Cameron Nicholson (Adjutant-General) and Lady Nicholson; General Sir Ouvry Roberts (Quarter-Master-General); Sir George Turner (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for War) and Lady Turner; Lieutenant-General Sir Frederick Harris (Director General Army Medical Services); Surgeon Vice-Admiral Sir Alexander Ingleby-Mackenzie (Medical Director General of the Navy) and Lady Ingleby-Mackenzie; Eight ex-Matron-in-Chief of the Army Nursing Services; Miss K. V. Chapman (Matron-in-Chief Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service); Air Commandant R. M. Whyte (Matron-in-Chief Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service); Lord Webb-Johnson; Mayor and Mayoress of the City of Westminster; Dowager Lady Amptill; Countess of Limerick; Miss Anna Neagle; Mrs. Cecil Woodham-Smith; representatives from civilian nursing organisations, B.R.C.S. and St. John Ambulance Brigade; two representatives from each of the 61 regiments which took part in the Crimea campaign; Medical Services; also High Commissioners for the Commonwealth and their wives; Municipal Authorities; and the Headmistresses' Association.

Her Royal Highness, The Princess Margaret, C.I., G.C.V.O., Colonel-in-Chief, Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, attended the Service, and she looked beautiful and elegant, yet profoundly royal and simple in that vast congregation where men and women in uniforms, with formidable arrays of medals on their left breasts, predominated. The petite Princess wore a close-fitting, dusty-pink hat and a perfectly tailored grey coat—cut on princess lines. She wore no furs—only a beautiful jewelled brooch high on her left shoulder, and she was a focus for all eyes as she sat in regal dignity in her chair of State. She appeared to be deeply interested in the service, for she joined whole-heartedly in the singing of the hymns.

The Bishop of Croydon, The Right Rev. C. K. N. Bardsley, C.B.E., M.A., preached a fine eulogy on the life and work of the incomparable Florence Nightingale. He is obviously a most gifted and intellectual preacher, and he possesses a beautiful speaking voice which was a joy to hear. His sermon was rousing and stimulating and was definitely the high-light or focus of the whole service. He would have been a great "accomplice" of Florence Nightingale had he lived in her day—for his great mind would have instinctively attracted him to her.



The Statue of Florence Nightingale, London, shewing Laurel wreath with pink chrysanthemums, orchids, carnations and lilies of the valley. The dates 1854 and 1954 were formed by small pink everlasting flowers.

The card attached to the wreath was tied on with red, white and blue ribbon and said:

Tribute to Florence Nightingale
From all ranks
Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps
In commemoration of 100 years of Army Nursing
4th November, 1854 - 4th November, 1954

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