

**The Mother of Scientific Nursing.**

MISS FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE'S eightieth birthday, which occurred last Tuesday, but which, for some reason, was observed on Saturday, was, naturally, made the occasion for expressions of congratulation and affection, especially by Nightingale Nurses. A lovely basket of flowers, accompanied by a dainty album containing a letter signed by 650 Nightingale Nurses, was presented on their behalf by Miss Gordon, Matron of St. Thomas' Hospital, and Superintendent of the Nightingale School. Amongst the signatures were those of two of the original probationers of the School when it was founded forty years ago.

The letter of the Nightingale Nurses was as follows:—

Dear Miss Nightingale,—We, as your nurses, speaking for ourselves and many others who have been trained in your schools, and are proud to bear the name of our dear chief, trust that you will allow us to offer you our hearty congratulations on your eightieth birthday.

We rejoice that you are still able to see some of us from time to time, and to take so lively a personal interest in our work. We feel grateful to you not only for the benefits which you have conferred upon us individually, but also for having by your example and wise direction created a noble calling for women generally.

We beg that you will accept this book containing our names, and a basket of flowers, as a birthday offering.

The transformation made in the fever-stricken hospitals of the Crimea by the organizing genius and skilled help of Miss Nightingale, needs no description by us, as it is now historic. It is noteworthy, however, that when she undertook this mission of mercy, Miss Nightingale was given full authority by the War Office to select her own nurses who were subject to her in all matters relating to their personal discipline, and the nursing of the sick. Submission to her authority was the first rule laid down, and several nurses refused to go under this condition. Surely, some of the success of Miss Nightingale's work is due to the fact that she was invested with the necessary authority for the maintenance of discipline. How different from the present war, when there is no head of the nursing department at the Cape, and Matrons at home are constantly complaining that nurses are being accepted by the Army Nursing Reserve Committee without any reference to them whatsoever.

The NURSING RECORD takes this opportunity of expressing its congratulations to Miss Nightingale on the attainment of her eightieth birthday, and the hope that she may live to see not only individual training schools, but the whole nursing profession, organized and efficient.

**The Matrons' Council.**

A MEETING of the Matrons' Council was held at the Matron's House, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, on Thursday, May 10th, at 4 p.m.

Miss Isla Stewart, President, occupied the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

**LETTERS OF REGRET.**

Letters of regret at inability to attend were announced from Miss Rogers and Miss Pell Smith (Leicester), Miss Barling (Kidderminster), Miss Beachcroft (Margate), Miss Purvis (Middlesboro'), Miss Emily Jones (St. Mary's Infirmary), Miss Emily Rogers (Cambridge), Miss Macintyre (Wigan),

Miss Wilkie (Halifax), Miss Elma Smith (Hendon), Miss Wingfield (Macclesfield), Miss Finch (New Hospital for Women, Euston Road), Miss Julian (Croydon), Miss Lucy Smith (Coventry), Miss Todd (Bournemouth).

**LETTERS OF THANKS.**

The following letters acknowledging the receipt of the Badges, sent to them as Hon. Members, were read from Miss Farquharson (Melbourne), and Miss McGahey (Sydney).

Prince Alfred Hospital,  
Sydney.

Jan. 9th, 1900.

MY DEAR MISS BREAY,—Thank you very much for so kindly forwarding to me on behalf of the Matrons' Council the Badge of the Society which I am very pleased to receive.

I consider it a great privilege to belong to the Matrons' Council and to be the possessor of its pretty Badge.

Thanking the Matrons' Council for conferring the distinction of Hon. Membership on me and for presenting me with the Badge.

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

S. B. MCGAHEY.

Melbourne Hospital,

Feb. 6th, 1900.

To the Hon. Secretary, the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland.

DEAR MADAM,—Will you kindly convey to the members of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland my heartiest thanks for the great honour they have so generously conferred on me not only in making me an Hon. Member of the Council five years ago, but in now sending me the beautiful Badge of the Council.

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