

## Florence Nightingale, O.M.

Miss Nightingale's executors and relations find themselves unable to acknowledge individually, as they would wish, all the letters and flowers received. They hope that the senders will accept their best thanks, and will understand that they appreciate very deeply the feelings of respect and affection for Miss Nightingale, of which these are the tokens.

Already various suggestions as to the form which a national memorial to Miss Nightingale shall take are being made. A public monument, the restoration of East Wellow church, and the beautifying of the churchyard; the establishment of a system of Registration combined with pensions for nurses; and the endowment of certified midwives for poor manufacturing districts, and in country parishes (proposed by Lady McLaren) are some of the propositions already put forward. A correspondent writes: "Why should not the Prime Minister, when Parliament reassembles, be invited to give facilities to the Women's Suffrage Bill as a tribute to the memory of the great woman whose services to the State are universally recognised as unique, who throughout her life desired the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women, but who died on a political equality with criminals, lunatics, and paupers?"

Mr. J. G. Wainwright writes in the *Times*: "As Treasurer of St. Thomas's Hospital, I have been approached by a large number of old Nightingale nurses and others interested in nursing, urging me to undertake the duty of organising a fund to the honour of Miss Nightingale. Provided that the fund is raised to serve as the 'Nurses' Memorial' to Miss Nightingale I shall, in spite of the numerous claims on my time, be happy to undertake this work, and to receive contributions from nurses and others connected with nursing to a fund to be called the 'Nurses' Memorial to Miss Nightingale.'

"I am taking steps to form a committee as widely representative as possible of the nursing interest, for such a memorial will not be confined to Nightingale nurses, and should secure the assistance of all nurses wherever trained, and of all interested in Miss Nightingale's work for nurses. The actual form of the memorial can only be settled by the contributors themselves. A meeting will be held for the purpose of considering and deciding this important question as soon as promises or contributions have been received from a sufficient number, but there seems to be an almost

unanimous feeling existent that the best way of honouring so dear a memory as that we treasure for our late chief is the foundation of a fund for the assistance of 'trained nurses.'"

The Requiem for Miss Florence Nightingale at St. Alban's, Holborn, on Thursday in last week was largely attended by nurses, members of the Guild of St. Barnabas, at whose instance the service was held. Its special object was emphasised by the emblems attached to the rails on either side the chancel gates, in which the letters "F. N." appeared in white immortelles surrounded by wreaths of laurel and oak leaves tied with violet ribbons.

The Order of the Service, specially printed for the occasion, included the Dies Iræ and the hymns "Lead, Kindly Light," "And now, O Father, mindful of the love," and "The King of Love." On a slip inset in the Service was the facsimile of part of a letter written in pencil by Miss Nightingale to the Guild on the occasion of its 25th Anniversary in 1901, with a brief notice of her life and work, signed E. F. R., in which occurs this sentence: "She found the 'service of the sick'—with some noble exceptions—in the dust, and she has raised it in dignity until the world has come to recognise in that service, not only a career of purity and honour, but as the opportunity for the exercise of every gift of the most refined and most accomplished womanhood."

## Progress of State Registration.

Discussing "The Evolution of the Nurse" in the last fifty years, in reference to the work of Miss Nightingale, the *British Medical Journal* says that the net outcome of the changes that have taken place since "Notes on Nursing" was written is "highly satisfactory in some respects, but almost equally unsatisfactory in others. Nursing is now a definite occupation, competing for recruits almost on precisely the same footing as other occupations for women. It is attracting a much smaller proportion of ladies than was the case some years ago, and the heads of some great institutions are reported to be finding a difficulty in securing probationers of the kind they would desire. In the hospitals the nursing is perfect from a technical point of view, but there is also in most of them some lack of the kind of spirit commonly associated with the name of nurse."

"The lines on which these (nursing) schools are conducted vary, and the final result is that the nurses placed at the disposition of the public and of medical men differ as greatly in

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