

Nursing Echoes.



City in 1908.

We are pleased to note that a proposal to commemorate the services of the late Miss Florence Nightingale by placing a marble bust of her in the Guildhall, or in some other way, will come before the Corporation at an early date. Miss Nightingale, it will be remembered, received the honorary Freedom of the

"Nurse B," in the *Daily Chronicle*, makes the suggestion that all persons other than trained nurses should pay duty on wearing nursing uniform—so many domestics have now adopted it. The difficulty is to enforce such a licence.

We have observed several suggestions in the press recently, that male unemployment might be decreased by the adoption by young men of the nursing profession. There is no doubt, when women have raised and legalised this work by their strenuous labour, more men will avail themselves of its organised benefits.

Why has it never been considered necessary to provide Rest Cure Homes for the poor? Not merely convalescent homes, but institutions where treatment, perfect rest in bed for a month or more, with forced feeding and massage. "Nil Humani Alienum" invites consideration of this question in the daily press.

"The appalling mystery," he writes, "of the neurasthenic state, whatever its true nature may be, must surely appeal to your readers as soon as they realise the need. It is only less, if it be less, than the misery of insanity itself; and it may well be greater, because the neurasthenic is sane enough to appreciate his own exceeding wretchedness.

"Whatever conclusion (if any) is reached as to the relative strain of mental and manual work, there seems to be a consensus of expert opinion that one of the great factors—if not the greatest—in nervous breakdown is painful emotion; and no one can deny that this element is as prevalent among the poor as among the rich; their anxieties and griefs, if different in kind and less subtle in nature, are obviously often over-whelming in degree, and frequently come from the great elemental things and touch the very bedrock of human needs and passions.

"The cost of organising any adequate system for dealing with such cases would, I am well aware,

be enormous; the risks of abuse would be considerable, though by no means so great as the layman might suppose; but as long as no proper system of "rest cure" is provided for the poor we in this country cannot make the proud boast we are apt to make, and we ought to be able to make—viz., that the medical needs of the poor are well seen to, and that (thank God) still almost wholly, despite Socialism, despite 'minority reports,' in the immortal words of the mythical Frenchman, by 'Monsieur Voluntary Contribution,' by the free gifts of the rich."

In the county of Lincoln a scheme has been set on foot to raise a memorial to the memory of Florence Nightingale, and it is thought that no more suitable memorial could be suggested than that the work of the Lincolnshire Nursing Association should be enlarged and augmented by scholarships given to assist in the training of women who are suitable for the profession, and that each scholarship should be called a Nightingale Scholarship. In addition to the ordinary subscribers, it is suggested that a Shilling Fund be opened in every district where the nurses of the Association are employed.

Dr. Davy is making an appeal on behalf of the Exeter District Nursing Association, in affiliation with the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute. The time has long since passed when it was necessary to urge the desirability of nurses being available for attendance on the sick poor. The Mayor and Mayoress of the city have taken up the matter enthusiastically, and are supporting the claims of the Association, and, this being so, it is not too much to hope that the comparatively small debt which remains on the initiation of the scheme will soon be met.

At a recent meeting of the Committee of Dundee Sick Poor Nursing Society a report was submitted from the Superintendent of the Scottish Branch of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses upon the work of the Queen's nurses in Dundee, inspected in August, which sets forth that each nurse whose work was seen showed capability and a kindly spirit, that the nurses' equipment was in good order, their uniform neat, their books up-to-date and neatly kept, that the nursing work goes on well, and that there is a good spirit in the Home.

It may specially interest school nurses to know that the current issue of *School Hygiene* is a special "Congress Number," and contains a very full and excellent report of the third International Congress on School Hygiene which was held in Paris last month.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)