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## Editorial.

### A GREAT EDUCATIONALIST.

A professional danger which nurses must recognise and combat if they wish to maintain a dignified and self-respecting position, is the modern tendency to depreciate the financial value of their skilled services or to utilise a considerable portion of their earnings for so-called charitable purposes, and then to present them to the public in the form of needy suppliants for alms.

That is really the *raison d'être* of the demands for annuities, almshouses and pensions for nurses, which many wealthy members of the community are quite prepared to patronise—although the pension for which many pay heavily throughout their working days, is really a form of self-insurance, not a "pension" at all, which is "an annual allowance for past services."

It is to be proposed that the Imperial Memorial to Florence Nightingale, which is to be inaugurated at Grosvenor House on October 28th, shall take the form of a charity for the nursing profession, which seems the more inept as Miss Nightingale's life-work was for the better education of nurses. For this she strove, for this she organised and endowed—with the money presented to her by the nation—the Nightingale Training School at St. Thomas's Hospital, in connection with which it should be noted that the probationers have always paid for their education.

Any Imperial Memorial to commemorate the value of Miss Nightingale's work for the community should commemorate her unique services to the science of healing. How urgently increased educational facilities for nurses are needed is well known. Other professions have their own endowment funds. There are many such for medical education; medicine has its

Royal Colleges and School; painting its Royal Academy; music its Royal College. Trained nursing alone has no central College; no endowments of education. Its standards are limited to the requirements of the lay managers of hospitals, who have no special interest in the efficient education of nurses for duties outside institutions, or in the needs of nursing education as a whole. Nowhere can candidates for probationers' posts obtain a preliminary course of instruction to fit them for their future work, though such instruction is now seen to be so essential that the largest hospitals are organising courses for their own accepted pupils; nowhere can nurses who have left their training schools obtain post-graduate instruction to keep themselves abreast with modern developments and methods. If a spurious philanthropy demands that nurses shall be underpaid in their working days, and maintained by charity when they can work no longer, at least let the public Memorial to the Founder of modern nursing commemorate her as a great educationalist.

Miss Nightingale's "Notes on Nursing," for the first time, defined the scientific principles on which the practice of modern nursing is based. In that classic work she insisted on the recognition of the Matron as the Superintendent of the training school, the professional head of the nursing staff whom she supervises; she insisted further on the supreme importance of thoroughness in the preparation of the probationer for her work; over and over again she dealt with the organisation of the nurse's training from the standpoint of the cultured educationalist, and it was for this reason that so great an impetus was given to the development of nursing. The most fitting Memorial which could be devised to her memory would therefore be one which would continue that development.

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