

## The Florence Nightingale Memorial.

No little confusion has arisen in the public mind between the separate committees which are taking action in promoting memorials to the late Miss Florence Nightingale—that promoted by Mr. J. G. Wainwright, Treasurer of St. Thomas's Hospital, and another by Miss Ethel McCaul. We may say at once that we consider the authorities of St. Thomas's Hospital have a prescriptive right owing to their intimate association with Miss Nightingale through her School of Nursing attached to the hospital, to organise a suitable memorial, and that it is a pity to divide the public interest and subscriptions in support of two separate schemes.

### THE NURSES' MEMORIAL.

On August 19th Mr. David Williamson, writing from the National Liberal Club, suggested that a public monument should be erected in London.

"Except," he says, "for a few statues of Queen Victoria and Queen Alexandra, there has been hardly any commemoration of the noble women of our day. 'Sister Dora' has a statue in the North of England. Why should not Florence Nightingale stand in the poetry of marble to inspire a future generation to an emulation of her great deeds as a pioneer?"

"In America a statue of Frances Willard was unveiled recently, and in France and Germany there are fine memorials of women. Let us erect a statue to Florence Nightingale, if possible near to St. Thomas's Hospital, where she founded her nursing institute. There will be monuments of her, doubtless, in St. Paul's or Westminster Abbey. But we ought to give the Londoners of the future—and, indeed, the world which comes to the centre of the Empire—the chance of looking on a permanent presentment of one of the greatest women who have blessed our Empire."

This suggestion was that already privately approved by many nurses, who wished to erect their own Memorial to the Founder of their Profession. The proposal made by the Hon. Sydney Holland that the vacant pedestal in Trafalgar Square should be utilised for this purpose could not be improved upon.

### MR. WAINWRIGHT'S PROPOSAL.

In his first letter to the press on August 29th Mr. Wainwright wrote:—"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."

In the *Evening Standard* of 8th September, Mr. Wainwright is reported to have said, "We

do not want to spend the money we get in marble." . . . My own idea is to form a fund which will assist nurses who have fallen upon bad times, and which will also provide money for the educational propaganda that is going on. . . . We want something which will act as a permanent benefit to trained nurses, and I expect the ultimate decision of the Committee will be very much on the lines I have advocated."

On October 20th Mr. Wainwright communicated to the Press the names of his Committee, which is composed of the majority of the Chairmen and Matrons of the Metropolitan hospitals with medical schools attached, the heads of the medical and nursing departments of the Navy and Army, and a few others, and announced that the first meeting of the Committee will be held at 3.30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 1st, in the Grand Committee Room of St. Thomas's Hospital, S.W.

### MISS ETHEL McCAUL'S PROPOSAL.

Miss McCaul's first suggestion was, we believe, to organise an international hostel, but at the meeting to be held at Grosvenor House on Friday, the 28th inst., the proposal is to be made to organise an Imperial Memorial "to render pecuniary assistance to aged hospital nurses or those incapacitated through ill-health from continuing their nursing career." As this scheme approximates so closely to that suggested by Mr. Wainwright, it is thus that the confusion in the public mind has arisen. We have never favoured any charity scheme for the nursing profession in connection with the name of our great teacher and leader. It appears to us beneath the dignity of the nursing profession to accept it.

Let the whole world realise how we look upon our Law Giver, when they behold her beautiful statue in the centre of the Metropolis of the Empire, side by side with the great national heroes we all revere. Equally heroic, her genius has inspired greater victories than those won by force of arms.

## Legal Matters.

### THE DEATH OF A BABY AT ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL, MANCHESTER.

The death of a child, aged 12 months, at St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, was the subject of an inquest by the Manchester Coroner (Mr. Ernest Gibson) last week, when it appeared that the baby, who was suffering from bronchitis, was put in a swing cot, this being later surrounded by a tent extemporised with screens; a spirit lamp was used for the purpose of generating the vapour. The day Sister, Miss Florence Dunster, stated that when she left the ward the lamp was burning properly. The cot was

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