

new deaconess then sang the Gospel. The bishop placed the stole on her neck, after which she took the veil or pallium from the altar and clothed herself with it. She also received a maniple, ring, and crown. She administered the Sacraments to the confessors in prison, and in the Mass communicated the women with the Cup, the deacons communicating the men. In some places she read the homily, and deaconesses are mentioned in several of the ancient lectionaries."

We are glad to observe, in connection with the proposed memorial to Miss Florence Nightingale, that leading opinion in the United States endorses that expressed by this journal. Miss M. Adelaide Nutting, Director of the Department of Nursing and Health, Teachers' College, Columbia University, N.Y., writes in the *American Journal of Nursing* as follows:—

"The nurses of Great Britain are considering carefully the matter of a suitable memorial to Florence Nightingale. It goes without saying that others than nurses are similarly engaged, and that there ultimately may be, not one memorial, but many, erected throughout the Kingdom, in commemoration of her and her immortal work.

"At the same time, there will probably be one scheme, which, because of its peculiar significance, may be accepted as embodying in the most fitting way that sentiment towards her which is not merely national, but universal, in its dimensions.

"The suggestions made by the different committees so far have been apparently of two types: the one which would provide some form of pension fund or annuity for old and disabled nurses, or for those in need of partial aid; the other which would provide improved and enlarged opportunities for the scientific education of nurses, and thus bring it up to a standard which will compare with that of other professions. Our interest would lie in the latter plan, as a logical extension of the system which Miss Nightingale set in motion, in founding the first Training School in St. Thomas's Hospital. All the world has benefited by that school and that system, every hospital and almost every home, and it seems to us quite likely that contributions might come from nurses and others in all quarters of the globe, for such an Institute, School, or College as would serve to educate nurses better than the hospital alone is able to do for the increasing demands which the community is making of them, demands for public service beyond that in hospital or home, and for work not only in the care of the sick, but in the prevention of disease and protection of health.

"Such educational work might be carried on in architecturally beautiful and appropriate buildings in which might be enshrined some at least of those historical records and mementoes of Miss

Nightingale and her work which are to nurses ineffably precious; and similar records and mementoes perhaps should be preserved of others who have rendered distinguished services in nursing. Here perhaps for the first time in history might be placed a suitably equipped library for nurses. It is hard to check the imagination in picturing such a foundation, and the impetus and inspiration it would give to a body of workers and students whose contributions, both actual and potential, to national welfare are of value which can hardly be estimated.

"We can think of committees at work in the various European countries and in America and Canada, where the name of Florence Nightingale has been held in veneration for two generations, receiving the contributions, large and small, which thousands of nurses would undoubtedly be glad to give according to their means, and no contribution would be too small to be welcomed. Through our nursing organisations there is now, happily, a way of reaching individual nurses, and we presume that Miss Goodrich, the President of the American Federation of Nurses, would gladly consent to act as Honorary Chairman of a Committee formed to enable American nurses to co-operate with those in England who are striving to find the best way of perpetuating a great name and life. Every living nurse is Florence Nightingale's debtor, and should eagerly grasp the means of acknowledging that debt in a way which opens up larger opportunities for future nurses."

We warmly support this suggestion of Miss Nutting that there shall be an international tribute of homage by the nurses of the world to the memory of the woman of genius who evolved their profession out of chaos.

Mr. G. A. Rathbone, of Liverpool, informs the public that nearly £6,000 is the amount already collected for the Florence Nightingale Memorial in that city. The memorial is to take the form of an extension of the district nursing work in Liverpool. In connection with that movement an appeal was made to the working men and women in the city to give the memorial their support, and a slight sketch of the first establishment of district nursing and of her interest in it was circulated in the nursing districts, especially amongst old patients. £62 14s. 3d. has been given by 2,600 poor people, and a considerable proportion of it had to be gathered when "pay came in." What is most gratifying are the expressions of gratitude for the work of the nurses, and the interest in Miss Nightingale's name, which accompanied many of the donations. Liverpool has done wisely in its choice of a memorial to the maker of modern nursing.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)