

Even genius could not make up for the lack of knowledge of detail, and if genius were an infinite capacity for taking pains then Miss Nightingale was an illustration of genius. She went out to those trenches in Russia and found a state of things which to-day would seem to be inconceivable. She knew what was required, and she set to work. She inspired those around her, and she spent her own energies, her health and strength, in doing the work which the nation had called upon her to do. The result was an achievement which had lasted beyond her time. Never again should we be face to face with the situation which confronted Florence Nightingale, and never again would the country have to surmount a situation which seemed to be insurmountable. But her labours did not end with the Crimea. Those who had read the voluminous report, extending to nearly 600 pages, which she presented to the Secretary of State for War, knew that she came home, not to rest, but to put the lesson she had to teach in such a form that there should be no excuse for the authorities to neglect it. Fortunately she had a great War Minister to deal with, one who did not want spurring on, and on the foundations which Miss Nightingale laid that Minister built. From that time on progress had been steady, but Miss Nightingale herself, although her health was shattered and her strength diminished, never laid down her task until released from her self-imposed obligations to duty by death. She was constantly at work, constantly observing and lending her unrivalled experience for the purpose of endeavouring to extend to civilian spheres that which she had learnt so well in military places. It was not only the Army, but the medical profession throughout the United Kingdom and abroad, that had learnt what Miss Nightingale had shown them—where science could be best and most effectively applied to the problems which confronted them.

It was a gracious but inevitable act of the late Sovereign that he should decorate Miss Nightingale with that Order of Merit which was reserved for the most distinguished. We who were her countrymen ought to be proud to have had the foremost woman of this or any age among us, and to have the country associated with the fame which attached to her name. She lived in the memory of "those made better by her presence," and set an example which was as potent to-day as in the days when she first set it. As a woman the work she did, and the example she set, was a living influence for us all.

THE HON. SYDNEY HOLLAND.

Mr. Sydney Holland said that everyone was pleased to see Lord Pembroke on that platform, the son of the man who was wise enough to discern what was in Florence Nightingale, and to give her her opportunity. Perhaps Lord Haldane would some time remove the statue of Mr. Sidney Herbert out from the courtyard of the War Office and place it where it could be seen.

We wanted a statue of Florence Nightingale, because without a statue it was wonderful how soon people were forgotten. He did not think that nurses and soldiers would forget her, but the public

would. Only the other day, when speaking of Miss Nightingale, he was asked: "Did she not do something with a lifeboat?"

It was difficult to convey what she had done for hospitals. With all the thought which had been given to hospital planning, nothing better was known than the design of St. Thomas' Hospital, which was Miss Nightingale's own. But it was not only the building, but the work which was done inside, which owed its inspiration to her. The whole attitude of nurses to-day to the sick was the attitude of Florence Nightingale, who came forward in a time of disaster, and had done more work for her country than any private woman who had ever lived. The reason that England was twenty-five years ahead of any other nation in its system of nursing was that we had had a Florence Nightingale. When she was studying nursing her soul panted for the time when she would be able to make reforms. With her, to encounter difficulties meant to conquer them. She taught us what it is to have a set purpose in life, and her ruling passion was to help everyone who could need help. With extraordinary insight and foresight she saw the possibilities not only of hospital, but of district nursing, and the work of health missioners, and gave them her support.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

Mr. H. T. Butlin, President of the Royal College of Surgeons, said a previous speaker had remarked that Miss Nightingale organised nursing. It should rather be said that she manufactured nurses, for there were none to organise. His connection with St. Bartholomew's Hospital carried him back for 45 years, when he was a dresser. At that time the sisters were humble, clean, and respectable—nice women but wholly untrained. The nurses were rough and coarse, but they were put to every kind of menial employment, and were even required to scrub floors and clean grates, which quite unfitted them for the more delicate part of nursing.

As to cleanliness, when a fracture was taken down, after some five weeks in splints, everyone stood back from the bed that he might not be covered with live stock, for vermin ran out in all directions. That was considered an inevitable event when splints were removed.

He did not remember any sudden alteration in nursing conditions in the hospital, but he always associated the change with the appointment of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick as Matron. Then things began to mend, and there grew up a splendid class of nurses who have never been excelled. His experience of nurses as a body was that they were splendid women.

The point before the meeting was what was to be done with the money which the Committee had not yet got, but which it hoped to have. Everybody was agreed that there must be a statue. As to the disposal of the remainder of the money he knew there was indignant remonstrance in some quarters at the proposal to expend it in charity, the idea being that if nurses were properly paid they would not need it. He looked forward to a day when nurses would be better paid, but he thought there

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