

## Memorials to Miss Nightingale.

The Matron-in-Chief and the members of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service are to be congratulated on having instituted a memorial of their own to Miss Florence Nightingale, the great founder of Army Nursing, which is eminently dignified and appropriate. As will be seen in our correspondence columns, this has taken the form of a window in the chapel attached to the Queen Alexandra Military Hospital, Grosvenor Road, S.W., which is to be dedicated on Wednesday next by Bishop Taylor Smith, Chaplain-General to H.M. Forces, and unveiled by Field-Marshal Earl Roberts, V.C., K.G.

### THE DERBYSHIRE MEMORIAL.

At a meeting of the sub-committee formed for promoting a memorial to Miss Nightingale in Derbyshire, held at Derby under the presidency of the Duke of Devonshire, it was decided to erect a statue of Miss Nightingale in the grounds of the Royal Infirmary, at Derby. It was stated that the cost would be £1,500.

### WE DEMAND AN EXPLANATION.

It seems almost incredible that from the list recently issued to the public of persons forming the General Committee of the Nightingale Memorial Fund, the name of Miss Mollett has been deleted. As Miss Mollett has not signified her intention to resign the seat she was invited to accept, it is imperatively necessary that an explanation of this matter should be publicly forthcoming without delay. We therefore call upon the Hon. Secretary of the Fund, Mr. G. Q. Roberts, to publicly state the reason for deleting Miss Mollett's name from the General Committee, and if none is forthcoming, to give his authority for this high-handed action, which appears as arbitrary as it is indefensible. If this gross discourtesy to one of the most deeply respected members of the nursing profession is intended to intimate to her colleagues that their names only are required to bolster up the unpopular scheme projected by the Executive Committee of the Fund, and that to venture to express an opinion as Miss Mollett has done will lay them open to summary dismissal, it is high time that the ladies who form the General Committee should reconsider their most undignified position. We hope there will be no attempt to burke our demand for an explanation. If this is not forthcoming we must conclude that we have here the result of that intolerant spirit of absolutism which dominates the anti-registration hospital official towards trained nurses, the matrons included, in its most offensive form.

It is a relief to turn to the straight ethical views on this question expressed by the editor of the Foreign Department of the *American Journal of Nursing*.

"In regard to suggestions that have been, or may be, made as to the participation of nurses of all countries in a memorial to Miss Nightingale it should be remembered that the authorities of St. Thomas' Hospital, and Miss Nightingale's own relative, who represents her in the affairs of that school, are fixedly antagonistic to State registration, and are among the most hostile opponents of organisation on self-governing lines among nurses. Hospital and training school directors in London have steadily ignored all of those organisations of British nurses who represent self-government in their alumnae and national associations, and who have been carrying on the campaign for legal status and State examination. It is therefore a question in how far any common ground could be arrived at if foreign organisations took part in a memorial, especially as the preference of the English hospital directors is for some charitable form for the memorial, whereas self-respecting nurses very properly resent this, and wish for a memorial which shall fitly express Miss Nightingale's great public services. At a public meeting held in London recently under the auspices of all the anti-registrationists (nurses being given a back seat), it was agreed that a statue of Miss Nightingale, "not too costly," should be erected with a part of the funds, and annuities for destitute nurses provided with the rest. It was stated that American nurses were eager to contribute. The editor of the Foreign Department desires to point out that, if nurses contribute to this particular memorial they will either help to build a cheap statue, or they will insult their British sisters by offering them charity. The officers of the International suggest that nurses wait until the Cologne Congress and there decide what a nurses' memorial to Miss Nightingale should really be."

We are informed that the Lady Marcus Beresford and Miss Ethel McCaul, R.R.C., have resigned from the Executive Committee of the Nightingale Memorial Fund.

### QUEEN'S NURSES AND THE CORONATION.

The Secretary of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses asks us to make it known that of the hundred seats which have been presented for the Queen's Nurses to view the Coronation Procession, a certain number have been offered to the officials directly employed by the Institute, and the remainder have been allocated to the Queen's Superintendents and Nurses throughout the United Kingdom according to their length of service under the Institute. As the first Queen's Nurses were enrolled in January, 1891, it is unlikely that seats will be available for any nurses who have not worked as Queen's Nurses for at least sixteen years.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)