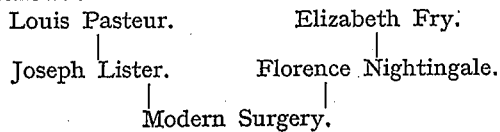


Lord Lister's spiritual parent was Pasteur, and it is interesting to learn that Miss Nightingale also had hers. As Lord Lister's was a man, so hers was a woman, and her name was Elizabeth Fry. Both Pasteur and Mrs. Fry had spiritual ancestors, the great chemists and biologists on the one side, apostles of religion and philanthropy—above all, George Fox—on the other side.

"Thus, beginning in that generation, we may not unfairly state the genealogy of modern surgery—including nursing, for the two are really one—as follows:—



"This genealogy may be criticised by many, but perhaps it will be remembered by many more, and even the critics may possibly begin to think in terms of it before they are quite aware. Two points may be made before we pass from it. The first is that on both sides we find ourselves referred to the Society of Friends, or Quakers, which gave us the physical, and in large measure the spiritual ancestry of Joseph Lister himself, and, on the other side, produced Elizabeth Fry. The second point worth noting is that surgery means handwork, and that the only reason why nursing, which so largely consists of handwork, may not be included under the category of surgery, is that the word is really so much richer and more beautiful, containing the idea of nourishing and tending. So far as the words are concerned, the surgeon merely manipulates, the nurse sustains. This merely by way of comment for any who may suppose that the position and dignity of surgery are compromised in a chapter which endeavours rightly to appreciate the woman's contribution to this great achievement."

The writer further states:—"Mrs. Fry died in 1845, when Florence Nightingale was 25, and it seems clear that the great pioneer of prison reform was the directive or motor influence which, working upon Miss Nightingale's unique natural endowment, determined the after-history of her life. That after history may be briefly summarised here. The young girl was a grand-daughter of William Smith, the friend and supporter of Wilberforce; and thus we see a second humanitarian and philanthropic influence, of the kind much despised by 'practical men' which produced salvation in the Crimea when the 'practical men' were landed in the impasse which awaits all such. Always the moral influence becomes the most practical; always the faddist wins, always the crank makes history—the right faddist, and the right crank, no doubt. But so far as the march of mankind is concerned, your 'practical man' is but the beast of burden from first to last."

#### THE MODERN NURSE.

"The modern nurse," says the author, "at once a product and a condition of Listerism, is a really

new product of our civilization. She discharges the oldest and most characteristic of womanly functions, but she does so in a new way. The difference of course, is constituted by knowledge, and is so great that the modern nurse, taking an ordinary surgical case, must be reckoned far superior as a surgeon to Paré or Hunter. She knows and she practises the first principles of healing, which were unknown to those great masters."

He proceeds to show that the good nurse is a product of both "nature and nurture." "He or she is born and made also. Until the modern era, the nature of the nurse, we may say, was everything, and the nurture almost nothing." While only the rudest imitations of the natural qualifications, where they are wanting, can be implanted by training, "only the grossest folly will seek for a nurse now-a-days who has not been genuinely trained." Dr. Saleeby thinks that the public cannot do better than choose its doctor rightly, and then accept the nurse he chooses. . . . "Once found, this right kind of nurse is amongst the most valuable friends of the family. The longer she and the family have known each other, the more valuable will she be. You cannot treat her too well, nor value her too highly."

The author further states: "At present, there is no doubt that the nurse is in a somewhat anomalous position. Her *status* is ill-defined. Apart from her professional *status*, she, herself, may be of widely variable social antecedents, and the public has not yet learnt whether to regard her as an ally, if not almost an equal, of the doctor—or, on the other hand, as a domestic servant, who gives herself airs. Now, the plain truth is that the modern nurse belongs to the former category, and not the latter. She is very likely the equal of her employer in social antecedents; she is almost certainly the superior of her employer in knowledge, in self-control, and in her value to society. Choose her well, then treat her well, and in the hours and days upon which all hangs, she will not fail you. . . ."

"Money is never spent to better profit than in paying the very moderate fees which a good nurse earns many times over. The attempt to save money by doing without a nurse when the doctor wants one, or by employing an untrained person is likely to be disastrous. It is often argued by devoted friends that loving hands ought to do the work of nursing apart altogether from the question of money. . . . One cannot but sympathise with such feelings, but they must be qualified by completer knowledge of the nurse's functions and qualifications. In the light of that knowledge we shall realize that loving hands which have not been trained to clean on surgical principles, may work irremediable harm, where hands less loving but trained and dutiful will do nothing but good. We shall learn also that the nurse's knowledge and training are such as entirely to supersede our amateur theories and the scraps of information, blended with superstition, which we have derived partly from hearsay, partly from ancestral practice, partly from the most up-to-date contributions

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