

NURSING ECHOES.

The press is coming to the conclusion that the result of the Nightingale Memorial Appeal is very insufficient, and that the suggested memorial is in no way worthy of so great a woman. Of course it is not. Miss Florence Nightingale stands, and ever will stand, as a great Educationalist; and it is just because the chief inspiration of her genius is obnoxious to the men who claimed the right—to the exclusion of the rank and file of the nursing profession—to dominate the management of her memorial, that the response has been so lacking in enthusiasm. Only a few persons with axes to grind have pushed the policy of making the memorial to one of the greatest teachers of this or any age, a pettifogging charity. A statue first—and the contributions were soon sufficient for that—and then a great National Educational Scheme for the uplifting of the Profession of Nursing should have been put forward. But the women who claimed this appropriate recognition were excluded from the Memorial Committee—or their opinion ignored. From beginning to end men monopolised the management of the Memorial, and they must be held responsible for its failure as in any degree worthy of Florence Nightingale.

Mr. Francis Knight, of Ravenscroft, Shirley Avenue, Southampton, writes to the press:—“Last November I wrote a letter to the Earl of Pembroke suggesting to the Executive Committee of the Florence Nightingale Memorial that the names of the other ladies who accompanied Miss Nightingale on her noble errand of mercy and patriotism during the Crimean War should be mentioned on a tablet on the memorial. I specially quoted extracts from *The Times*, dated October 24, 1854, and subsequent dates wherein special mention was made of ‘the fifty heroic ladies who accompanied Miss Nightingale.’ . . . The Earl of Pembroke informed me ‘he feared it would be difficult to obtain an accurate list of the names of the nurses.’ Perhaps the publication of this letter in your columns will elicit the desired information to assist the executive of the memorial.”

We should like to warmly support this suggestion. Surely in the archives of the War Office the information required can be found. Miss Nightingale’s genius could not have found practical application without the devoted

labour of the rank and file. We hope Lord Haldane, the Secretary of State for War, will direct that the names of all the patriotic women who were willing, through his department, to give their lives in the service of their countrymen during the Crimean War, may after all these thankless years be given to the public, and some degree of honour bestowed upon them.

The Nurses’ Choral and Social League gave a very successful concert at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, last week. The League, which was founded in 1910, and of which Mrs. Careg-McCowan is President, has members in all parts of London, who meet for mutual help, benefit, and social intercourse. Conducted by Dr. W. Herbert Hickox, the choir of nurses excellently rendered a number of part-songs, accompanied by Mr. Enos Green’s String Quartet. A number of eminent artists as well as individual nurses contributed to the success of the programme, and Miss Evelyn Key was an admirable accompanist.

There was a large gathering at the tenth annual meeting of the Somerset County Nursing Association, held in the Municipal Hall, Taunton, last week, and presided over by the Rev. L. Menzies Lambrick, of Blagdon. Besides the County Superintendent, Miss du Sautoy, the Superintendents of several other County Associations were present and many nurses. The committee in their report refer in most cordial terms to the value of the work done by Miss du Sautoy, who later in the proceedings presented much valuable information in her own report. At the close of the business proceedings, Dr. Henry Davy, D.Sc., F.R.C.P., of Exeter, and a past President of the British Medical Association, gave a most interesting address on “The Value of Present-day District Nursing,” giving an historical survey of the rise and development of modern nursing, in the course of which he said: “Well organized district nursing by properly trained nurses ought to be encouraged and practically supported and helped by every sanitary authority in England. He would be a practical statesman who would attack preventable disease by a thorough organization of nursing in the homes of the poor. The Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute formed ready at hand an organization for carrying out efficient aseptic district nursing, and if a Government were to subsidize it, and put it on a firm basis, under adequate inspection, it would stamp out a very great deal of preventable disease, and would

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