

affairs, when Parliament has decided to treat us as serfs, and whilst classing women lower than the basest criminal man, and on a mental plane with lunatics and children, to shamelessly take our money through taxation whilst denying us just representation, and the power to say how it shall be spent. The men who manage the Pension Fund are pronounced anti-suffragists; the less power they have over us the better.

THE REAL FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

General Evatt gave a most illuminating address on Florence Nightingale at the Lyceum Club on the 28th ult., at the Authors' At-Home. Mrs. Rentoul Esler was in the chair and the audience were evidently deeply interested. The reason was not far to seek, as General Evatt presented Miss Nightingale in her truly great character, and not merely as the somewhat sickly philanthropist which a sentimental and unappreciative public has accepted from mid-Victorian records written by men. General Evatt entitled her the "Woman Who Knew," and then he very skilfully sketched how she came to know.

Born in the purple (no middle-class woman in those days would have been permitted by class prejudice to fill the position of organizer and Lady-in-Chief in the Public Service by Government), most thoroughly educated by a highly cultivated and widely travelled father, surrounded from birth by culture and refinement—her marvellous mentality found its true environment and scope from her earliest years. Florence Nightingale was endowed with great force of character and power of original thought, she knew because she was trained and educated; and she was able to enforce her knowledge at the call of circumstance, because her character was strong and indomitable. With a few keen observations General Evatt brought before his audience the stupendous force of Miss Nightingale's influence. Her connection with Nursing was but part of her work as a great sanitary reformer. She was primarily a great health missionary; and it was because she had fitted herself by personal experience in all departments of work in relation to health, at home and abroad, that she *knew*, and when public opinion was aroused in England as to the hopeless breakdown of the whole Army equipment in the Crimea—that ~~when~~ called upon, she was ready. Gentle she was ~~in~~ manner, but of the finest mettle; a great and tireless organizer, but a very firm and ruthless administrator. No one had done more to purify the Army and elevate the soldier; she did not only nurse him when sick, but suggested his betterment in health. She was also the greatest Indian sanitary reformer the world had ever seen: she knew more of its intricate laws and of the condition of its people, than any politician. Of Miss Nightingale's work after the Crimean war General Evatt spoke in unstinted praise, and claimed that the sex which she

adorned had the right to just equality in political freedom, so that its special genius should be available for the benefit of mankind.

A MAGNIFICENT MILITANT.

In offering the warmest thanks of the audience to General Evatt for his masterly oration in recognition of the genius of one of the world's greatest women, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick claimed that Florence Nightingale was one of the most magnificent of militants. Let them remember that when the sick were starving at Scutari, and the written order was not to hand for distributing stores from a locked store-room, Florence Nightingale had the door battered open and the stores distributed. That was the keynote of her splendid character: she was no sweet saint, but a great and splendid human creature, who served the people with promptitude and devotion—irrespective of precedent and results.

It would be well for the audience to realise that the profession of nursing, which she founded for the prevention and care of sickness, had after half-a-century of time received no recognition from the State. Trained nurses were still struggling to fulfil their high and responsible duties without legal status, a defined educational curriculum, or means of discipline. To General Evatt nurses and the public owed warm gratitude as he had been the first man to present to the War Office, in 1885, a memorandum defining a scheme of education and registration for the better organisation of Trained Nursing; a memorandum which had been pigeon-holed; so that the nurses who in 1887 came forward with the same demand were unaware of General Evatt's action. And now, after a quarter of a century of time, the constant petitions of thousands of trained nurses were still pigeon-holed by a Government which excluded women, including Florence Nightingale, from helping to make social laws for the benefit of the State.

A NIGHTINGALE COLLEGE OF NURSING.

Mrs. Fenwick then alluded to the sad result of the Nightingale Memorial appeal—only some seven thousand pounds having resulted from three appeals from the Memorial Committee. The rank and file of the nursing profession had been denied representation on the Committee, but as practically so little support had been forthcoming for a charity memorial she hoped the day would come when the British Public would do justice to the memory of the greatest woman of the nineteenth century, by erecting in her memory a memorial worthy of her name—The Nightingale College of Nursing, in which her wonderful teaching could be carried on for all time.

In seconding the vote of thanks Mrs. Havelock Ellis said the generous manner in which General Evatt had spoken of Miss Nightingale made her proud to be a woman.

The vote of thanks which was passed by acclamation, was accompanied by the expression of opinion that a fitting memorial of an educational character must be raised to the great teacher who had pupils in all parts of the world.

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