

Kedron, I saw the Rhine dearer to me than the Nile." Nevertheless she "objected strongly in later years to current statements that her own training was confined to Kaiserswerth. "The nursing there," she wrote, "was nil. The hygiene horrible. The hospital was certainly the worst part of Kaiserswerth . . . On the other hand the tone was excellent, admirable."

Miss Nightingale's pen was a trenchant one. Of prospectuses, which she detested, she wrote, "they are the devil, and make one sick," and when appointed to the charge of the Home for Invalid Gentlewomen, she wrote of her committee as "fashionable asses," and again:—

"My Committee refused me to take in Catholic patients, whereupon I wished them good morning, unless I might take in Jews, and their Rabbis to attend them. So now it is settled and *in print* that we are to take in all denominations whatever, and allow them to be visited by their respective priests and Muftis; provided I will receive (in any case *whatsoever* that is *not* of the Church of England) the obnoxious animal at the door, take him upstairs myself, remain while he is conferring with his patient, make myself *responsible* that he does not speak to, or look at, *any one else*, and bring him downstairs again in a noose, and out into the street. And to all this I have agreed; and this is in print.

Amen. From Committees, charity, and schism—from the Church of England and all other deadly sin—from philanthropy and all the deceits of the devil, Good Lord deliver us."

We have devoted much time to the early life of the heroine of the book to show the influences which were shaping her career. Equally important and interesting are the other sections of the first volume. The second part describes her work, now so well known, in the Crimea. Her nurses must have found her at times somewhat grim, as when one enthusiast begged her not to allow any red tape to interfere with their work for the wounded on arrival she briefly replied, "the strongest will be wanted at the washtub."

Of her friendship with Mr. Sidney Herbert, and her work in connection with the Royal Commission on the health of the Army in India, there is little space to write.

When the Indian Mutiny broke out Miss Nightingale, in spite of the condition of her health volunteered, in all sincerity, to go out at twenty-four hours' notice.

She was a passionate statistician and we read that during the International Statistical Congress she induced her friend Mrs. Herbert to invite the statisticians to an evening party. "The feast of statistics acted upon her as a tonic."

(To be continued.)

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TRAINED NURSES.

We are glad to find that the Annual Meeting of the National Council of Trained Nurses is to be well attended on November 27th, as so much interesting business will be brought before it; the preliminary Agenda will be found on page xi of our advertisements. Dr. Helen Parker Criswell, the President of the Californian Nurses' State Association, and Chairman of the Californian Arrangements Committee for organizing the Meeting and Congress of the International Council of Nurses at San Francisco, is at present in London, and taking counsel with the officers of our National Council. This visit is most opportune, and will enable us to begin work for the success of "1915" without further delay.

Miss Nutting has already brought the question of the Nurses' International Memorial to Miss Florence Nightingale before the American Nurses' Association, and suggested a contribution of one dollar from every nurse in the United States. Here we think one day's pay would be fair. Sisters would thus give about 1s. 3d.; Staff nurses, 9d. to 1s.; and probationers, 6d. Of course, everyone would be at liberty to give as much more as they chose, and we should hope for some handsome donations from those who value a high standard of nursing education, and the skilled nursing service resulting from it. This matter is to be discussed on the 27th.

Miss A. C. Gibson has kindly consented to speak to the Council on the proposed new Poor Law Institution Order from the nursing point of view.

Miss M. Breay, who has given time to studying the proposals of the London County Council concerning the licensing of Nursing Homes, will bring suggestions before the Council; and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick will speak on the very important question of the Nursing of the Insured Sick—a question which is arousing a somewhat heated controversy throughout the country, as nurses naturally want to know why the *per capita* fee per insured person for medical attendance should cost 8s. 6d., and nursing 3d., especially as midwifery is to be charged at 10s. per case. There is a growing opposition to the suggestion of the "Threepenny Nurse."

As so many vital questions are on the *tapis*, all members of the Council should attend whose duties do not prevent it—all day, if possible, otherwise in the morning or afternoon.

Cards of invitation for luncheon, most hospitably provided by Mrs. Walter Spencer at

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)