

soldiers—sergeants and corporals—declaring their desire to claim the nurses as brides. The matrimonial deluge carried off six of her best nurses."

It was not only among the vermin that there was no "unity of purpose." "Just as in London there was no co-ordination among the Departments, so at Scutari there was no unity of action and no clear personal responsibility. 'It is a current joke here,'" wrote Miss Nightingale from Scutari, "to offer a prize for the discovery of anyone willing to take responsibility."

When the Lady of the Lamp went to pay a visit of inspection in the Crimea, her position was more difficult because it was ill-defined. In the public instructions she was appointed Superintendent of the hospitals in Turkey, and this gave colour to the contention of her enemies that she had no *locus standi* in the Crimea. "There is not an official," she said, "who would not burn me like Joan of Arc if he could, but they know that the War Office cannot turn me out because the country is with me." Even the nurses, "taking the cue from their superiors, were inclined to question and flout her authority. 'I don't know what she wants here,' said one when the Lady Superintendent appeared on the scene."

One of the important results of Miss Nightingale's work was not only to prove that there was room for women nurses in British military hospitals and to show the way to a new and high calling for women, but also to raise the standard of women's capabilities and work.

"What she sought, on her return to England, was to utilize her reputation and her experience for the furtherance of her ideals. . . . She came back from the East more resolved than ever to be a pioneer in the reform of nursing."

FOR THE HEALTH OF THE SOLDIERS.

"To understand," we read, "the passionate devotion, the self-sacrificing ardour with which Miss Nightingale set to work immediately upon her return, we must remember what she had seen in the East. She had 'identified herself,' as we have heard, 'with the heroic dead,' and she knew that many of her 'children,' as she called them, had died, not of necessity, but from neglect. 'No one,' she wrote, 'can feel for the Army as I do. These people who talk to us have all fed their children on the fat of the land and dressed them in velvet and silk, while we have been away. I have had to see my children dressed in a dirty blanket and an old pair of regimental trousers, and to see them

fed on raw salt meat, and nine thousand of my children are lying, from causes which might have been prevented, in their forgotten graves. But I can never forget.'" So before the public interest in the Crimean War had given place to some newer interest, she pressed for radical reforms in Army Hygiene, not only in time of war, but in time of peace, for statistics, of which she was a past mistress, had proved to her that while the mortality in civil life was only 11 per 1,000, in the Line, Artillery, and Guards in England it was 17, 19, and 20 per thousand, and she contended that it was "as criminal to have this mortality as it would be to take 1,100 men per annum out upon Salisbury Plain and shoot them—no body of men being so much under control, and none so dependent upon their employers for health, life, and morality as the Army," and amongst her private notes during 1856 was this: "I stand at the altar of the murdered men, and while I live I fight their cause."

Therefore she began at once to lay her plans, and made the best use of a "command" visit to Balmoral to secure the interest of Lord Panmure, the Secretary of War (then Minister in attendance), and the appointment of a Royal Commission on the Health of the Army. She suggested its *personnel*, with Mr. Herbert as Chairman, but Government Departments move deliberately, and it was not appointed until six months later.

But she held a winning card, and was well aware of it. She had been asked to prepare a confidential report, embodying the results of her experience. "If she felt assured of reform from within, the report would remain confidential. But if she were not so persuaded, there was nothing to prevent her from heading a popular agitation for reform from without." "Three months from this day," she wrote to Mr. Herbert, "I publish my experience of the Crimean campaign, and my suggestions for improvement, unless there has been a fair and tangible pledge by that time for reform."

The Report of the Commission confirmed Miss Nightingale's statistics and embodied important recommendations. The next thing was to ensure their enforcement, and "without a moment's rest, without thought of recess or relaxation, Miss Nightingale flung herself into a new campaign." A year later Sir John McNeill wrote to her, "You must now feel that you have not laboured in vain, and that to you more than to any other man or woman alive, will henceforth be due the welfare and efficiency of the British Army."

(To be continued.)

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