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EDITORIAL.

THE NIGHTINGALE CHAIR OF NURSING.

The magnificent gift of 100,000 guineas made by Sir Hildred Carlile to the Endowment Fund of Bedford College, London, as a memorial to his mother, Mrs. Edward Carlile, will have far-reaching influence on women's education and evolution. The College which has always held a foremost place amongst the women's colleges in this country, and is affiliated with London University, is now located in magnificent buildings in Regent's Park, costing £100,000, opened last year by Her Majesty the Queen. The nucleus of an Endowment Fund of £150,000 was formed by the surplus of the sum raised for the new building in connection with an appeal made by Lord Haldane, President of the Fund, and those associated with him.

Sir Hildred Carlile's gift will go far towards providing the entire sum asked for. No conditions are attached to the splendid gift except that no part of it is to be used for building purposes.

Lord Haldane in acknowledging it has voiced the opinion of many women, as well as his own, in characterizing it as "splendid and generous," and adding, "no nobler memorial to Mrs. Edward Carlile could have been established. You have placed this great College on an enduring foundation, and have thereby given great cause for gratitude from many who are much interested in its work, and from the public."

The immediate result of Sir Hildred Carlile's gift will, it is hoped, be an increase in the number of professorial chairs at the College, and it seems that no more suitable opportunity could occur to press for the recognition of the establishment of a Chair of Nursing. £600 a year is required for the endowment of a chair, but, as the salary of the head of a department, of £400 a year, is saved in consequence,

the balance required is £200 per annum for each new chair. By the establishment of a Chair of Nursing not only would the educational character of nurse training be thus emphasised, but no more suitable memorial could be raised to Miss Florence Nightingale, whose "supreme weapon," in the words of Miss Dock, "was education." The International Council of Nurses has already determined to raise funds for an International Memorial to Miss Nightingale to take the form of a Florence Nightingale Chair of Nursing, in connection with an English University, and nothing would stimulate more the contributions collected by the various National Councils, which will present their offerings to the President, Miss Goodrich, at the Meeting in San Francisco next year, than the knowledge that their gifts would be supplemented by an authority ready to found the Chair. Further, nothing could give greater encouragement to the well-trained nurses in this country, who have worked so strenuously for the uplifting of their profession, than to know that this recognition had been accorded to a profession which is proving itself increasingly indispensable both to the State and to the Community.

Nursing, in common with other branches of women's education has suffered from the lack of those endowments which have been so generously bestowed in past centuries, and down to the present time, upon men's colleges and universities; for education is a costly matter, and the fees which pupils can afford to pay will never provide for the whole of the teaching required without additional endowments from those who recognize the supreme importance of thorough education to the community at large. This has been demonstrated in the case of medical education, for the endowment of which large sums have been given, and the education of midwives is assisted by scholarships given by public bodies.

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