

THE NIGHTINGALE SCHOOL: INSTITUTION OF A MEDAL.

All teaching to be efficient must not only be well organized, but its results require to be tested by some system of examination; and, further, it is well that these results should be recognized and rewarded. During the past three years much has been done in the Nightingale School at St. Thomas' Hospital in the first of these directions, notably by the appointment of a special Sister, who occupies towards the students much the position held by a college tutor, devoting as she does individual attention to the work of all the probationers. The examinations held at the end of the course have also been revised and strengthened; and here the test is applied not only to what has been

her successful statue of Miss Nightingale, now at Derby. On the obverse the artist has placed, as is fitting, the head of Florence Nightingale, and round it runs the legend, "I have taught thee in the way of wisdom," taken from the book of Proverbs. For the reverse, the Lady with the Lamp was the necessary inspiration; and here a happy memory of a Greek bas-relief now in the Terme Museum at Rome suggested a treatment which, while old in the sense that it is classic, may be claimed as new in this application. Balancing the design is a small cartouche, on which will be engraved the year of award. On this is perched an owl, and here we have a happy link connecting the old design with its modern application. The owl was, at Athens, the sacred bird of Athena, the emblem of her wisdom; it is also traditionally connected with Florence Nightingale. The reason for



Obverse.



Reverse.

THE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL.

learnt from books and lectures, but also to what in nursing is as of great, if not greater, importance—practical, or ward work.

To what has been done in these directions is now added the crown of reward, by the institution of a medal. For this there could be but one name and it is rightly called the Nightingale Medal.

Founded by an old Nightingale Nurse, it will be awarded every year in gold, silver, and bronze, to the three students whose work shall seem to mark them as pre-eminent in their year. Of this medal we are able to give an illustration, and a word may be added as to its meaning and design. In this an effort has been made to combine the two features which should mark every medal—artistic perfection and a due relation to its object. The design is from the hand of the Countess Feodora Gleichen, who seemed to be marked out for the task by

this is perhaps not generally known, but will be found in E. T. Cook's life (vol. I, p. 89). Visiting the Acropolis in early life, a baby owl fell out of its nest in the Parthenon; caught by some boys, Miss Nightingale purchased it from them, and brought it to England, where it long lived with her as a pet.

Thus into the small round afforded by a medal have been wrought by the skill of the artist many memories of the lady whose name it will help to perpetuate in this the school of her own founding.

No gold medal was awarded this year; the silver one is won by Dorothy Bannon, the bronze by Persis Stagg.

It is now thirty years ago since the Editor of this JOURNAL, when Matron and Superintendent of Nursing at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, proposed that a Gold Medal should be awarded

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