

## PRESENTATION OF NIGHTINGALE MEDALS.

On Wednesday, October 24th, an interesting function took place in the Nightingale Home at St. Thomas' Hospital, when the Nightingale Medals gained by nurses in the final examination of 1917 were presented to the successful candidates by Miss Amy Hughes.

Prior to this a number of "old Nightingales" were entertained to tea by the Matron, Miss Lloyd Still, with Mr. W. Minet, Secretary, Nightingale Fund, Mr. G. Q. Roberts, House Governor, St. Thomas' Hospital, and other friends of the school.

The ceremony took place in the dining-room in the Nightingale Home, the nursing staff, in their neat uniforms, being seated on three sides of a square.

Mr. Minet announced that 31 nurses had completed their examinations and were classed in the final results; 5 were not classified owing to absence, through illness, at one or more of the qualifying examinations. Of the 31 nurses, 19 were placed in Class A, 11 in Class B, and 1 in Class C. Five nurses attained to the standard qualifying for the Gold Medal, viz., 75 per cent. of the total marks and Class A (60 per cent.) in all examinations, and 70 per cent. of the marks given for ward efficiency and conduct. These five nurses were Nurse Edith Mary Heale, Nurse Ekaterini Stéfanos Servétopoulos, Nurse Theodora West-Watson, Nurse Muriel Balmain, and Nurse Gladys Heilgers, and the first three in order of merit were awarded the gold, silver, and bronze medals respectively.

In making the announcement Mr. Minet said that it was always impressed upon the nurses that their work was of little use unless inspired by the right spirit, but spirit was impalpable, and from the first people had tried to associate its significance with an outward and visible sign. This was what they were trying to do by the bestowal of the Nightingale Medal. In the design of the medal they had endeavoured to combine artistic perfection and due relation to its objects. The meaning of its symbolism would, no doubt, be handed down from generation to generation of Nightingale nurses.

Another note had also been struck last year. It was agreed that a function of so domestic a character should be kept as much as possible in the family, and the medals were presented by a Nightingale Nurse, and this year another, Miss Amy Hughes, who had had experience of many varieties of nursing, would give the medals.

Miss Hughes, before calling on the nurses to receive their medals, spoke of the pleasure she felt as a Nightingale Nurse in being asked to perform this duty, and of the feeling of devotion and pride which inspired every member of the school at being associated with it. When she was at St. Thomas' Miss Nightingale used to receive the probationers every year, and it was owing to Miss Nightingale's influence that she had become a district nurse.

Miss Hughes emphasised the power of influence exercised by individual nurses on those with whom they came in contact, both patients and fellow workers. Every private nurse, whether she wished it or not, had a definite power entrusted to her in the houses in which she ministered, and a sacred duty to those with whom she worked. A very little thing sometimes turned the balance with an easily influenced fellow worker.

Nurses had a spiritual as well as a technical responsibility; it was theirs to comfort in grief, and console by their sympathy. In the homes of the people which were open to their influence tact was needed—the tact which suggested and then left the idea imparted to come to fruition. The speaker reminded those who were to receive their medals, and who had done so well, that a high ethical standard should go hand in hand with the skill they had learnt. She then presented the gold medal to Nurse Heale, and the bronze one to Nurse West-Watson. Unfortunately Nurse Servétopoulos was not well enough to be present.

The Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, who as Treasurer of the Hospital proposed a vote of thanks to Miss Hughes, said that it was his first public appearance in the Nurses' Home. At St. Thomas' Hospital they were proud of Miss Hughes, and he thought the recipients of the medals would feel their value was increased from receiving them from her hands.

Miss Hughes replied, and the ceremony closed with three hearty cheers for the Matron.

## QUEEN VICTORIA'S JUBILEE INSTITUTE FOR NURSES.

Her Majesty Queen Alexandra has been graciously pleased to appoint Miss Amy Hughes, late General Superintendent of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, as a member of the Council of the Institute.

Her Majesty Queen Alexandra has been also graciously pleased to approve the appointment of the following to be Queen's Nurses to date October 1st, 1917:—Misses Emily M. Scott, Evelyn M. Gaunt, Lilian R. Kimmons, Beatrice M. T. Clarke, Gertrude M. Fraser, Louie C. Lakin, Lucy McKinlay,

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