

LONDON HOSPITAL SYSTEM.

In the House of Commons on July 31st Major Chapple asked the Under Secretary for War whether the certificate of training presented in evidence of qualification by London Hospital nurses applying for posts in the Army Service states that the nurse has had three years' training in the hospital or only two years' training?

Mr. Macpherson replied that steps are always taken to ascertain that a nurse has completed the necessary period of training and service in the wards. In reply to Sir C. Henry he said that there was no differentiation in the nurses that come from the London Hospital and from others.

Major Chapple then said: "Is the Right Hon. gentleman aware that he told us that a three years' certificate of training is necessary for appointment to the Army Nursing Service, and I ask him in the present question, does the London Hospital certificate of training say two years or three years?"

Mr. Macpherson replied: "I cannot add anything to the answer I have given, but I would like to point out that the three years includes two years' training and one year's service in the wards."

Pressed further by Major Chapple, Mr. Macpherson said: "We are satisfied in every case with the nurse who comes from the London Hospital, or any other hospital, if she has completed the necessary period of training and service in the ward."

Thus, though the London Hospital certifies its nurses at the end of two years, the War Office requires that they shall serve another year in the wards before they are eligible for Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, which, presumably, indicates that it does not consider a nurse certified at the end of two years adequately qualified.

Major Chapple also asked the President of the Board of Education whether nurses trained at the London Hospital have been appointed to any posts under the jurisdiction of the Board. Before putting the question he also asked, as a point of Order, why the following words were deleted from the question: "Whether he is aware that nurses at the London Hospital are taken from their training in the wards and sent out to do private nursing at the end of their second year, receiving 13s. per week, while the hospital draws not less than 29s. per week profit from their earnings; and whether he will see that no nurses are appointed from hospitals that exploit their nurses in this way"—with those words deleted the question is meaningless?"

The Speaker replied that the words were in the nature of giving, and not asking, information to a Department which was not responsible for it, and further that the Board of Education had no control over the training of nurses at the London or any other hospital.

THE GRAVE OF FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

"A Londoner," who appealed recently in the *Telegraph* for support for the Gold and Silver Fund of the British Red Cross Society, should know his London and his nursing history better before he conjures up the soul of Florence Nightingale in support of the appeal. He (or is it she?) writes:—

"Among your tarnished treasures you will find gold bracelets that even for your husband's sake you could never wear again, and that hitherto you have never dared to get rid of. To day the soul of Florence Nightingale cries to you insistently that the Red Cross can best be helped by those very discarded trinkets that meant so much to the women of her own generation. There were life and labour in the trenches of that day too. From her grave in the Abbey she will thank you—if it is thanks you ask for."

"A Londoner" will search in vain amongst the graves of the great ones of the earth in the Abbey at Westminster for that of Florence Nightingale. The nation would willingly have paid that last tribute to her genius, but Miss Nightingale expressly directed in her will that her funeral should be of the quietest possible character, and those who wish to stand beside her grave must make a pilgrimage to the quiet little Hampshire town of Romsey, and thence drive deep into the heart of the country across the lovely river Test, and, if they can get permission from the present owner, through Embley Park, close under the windows of Embley House, which Miss Nightingale in her ardent girlhood would like to have converted into a hospital, and so, through deep hedges, till they come to the tiny village of East Wellow, and, arrived at its typically English church, with its high-pitched, red-tiled roof, and black wooden tower, pass through the turnstile, at the side of the lych gate, to the Nightingale tomb. On three of the sides of this are inscribed the names of Miss Nightingale's father, mother, and sister respectively. The fourth panel bears the simple inscription:



F. N.

Born 12 May, 1820.

Died 13 August, 1910.

It faces the church where Miss Nightingale so often worshipped. She is still remembered by old inhabitants, and on the day of her funeral

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