

daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all."

There were, he said, in the nineteenth century three famous personalities who more than any others had contributed to the alleviation of suffering.

Simpson, the discoverer of anaesthesia, Lister, the author of the antiseptic system, and Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern scientific nursing.

The authorities of the Abbey welcomed the present opportunity of honouring Miss Nightingale's memory. When she died they offered to her family space for her interment within its walls, and later that her statue should be erected near to that of the great Lord Shaftesbury.

Since the appearance of her biography by Sir Edward Cook, we were in a better position to appreciate her character. Before that appeared it was supposed that Florence Nightingale at the time of the Crimean War turned her back on a brilliant social career to go to the help of the sick and wounded with gentleness and charity. The real woman—strong, resolute and of masterful intellect—was scarcely known, and was only revealed by her biographer. Our feelings were those of thankfulness that such a strong personality had been raised up to do her special work.

The preacher reminded those present that Florence Nightingale was the contemporary of Tennyson and Browning, Darwin, Gladstone, Salisbury, Beaconsfield, Mill, Shaftesbury, Pusey, Newman, Kingsley and Maurice. The nineteenth century was sometimes belittled, but an age which produced such men and such a woman was one of which future history need not be ashamed.

He recalled, with pleasure, that at the end of her long life she was decorated with the highest order which could be bestowed upon her (the Order of Merit), and said that the last fifty years of her life, which she spent as an invalid and a recluse, were not the least fruitful, the improvement of military barracks, and the health of the Army in India, being subjects with which she intimately concerned herself, as well as rural sanitation. She also devoted her energies to minute and industrious research. As a thinker and writer she was far above the average; she spoke, and spoke with authority, to Government Departments. Though her temperament was practical and businesslike, she delighted in mysticism.

The Crimean war was one of the turning points in scientific nursing; the people were excited at the want of care of the sick and wounded; the nurses available were in many instances undesirable. Then arose this fascinating new element, a strong and gracious woman, who, with the support of her friend, Sidney Herbert at the War Office, went out to carry out sweeping alterations. She succeeded, but at the cost of the sacrifice of her nerves and strength for the remainder of her long life. Later, by her steadfast

leadership, she effected what no one had ever done before, and transformed nursing from a menial calling to an honoured scientific profession. She insisted on more work, more study, and to-day we were proud of her name and rejoiced to carry on her traditions, which were not of a vapid sentimental kind, but of a strong forceful type. Her life was one of self sacrifice, yet of most imperious effort.

The country had cause to offer thanks to Almighty God for many brilliant and gifted women in the nineteenth century, but two of these, by their strength of mind and integrity of purpose, stood elevated above all others—Queen Victoria and Florence Nightingale. For these reasons he had chosen the words of his text. "Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all."

NIGHTINGALE SCHOLARSHIPS.

The Nightingale Fund offers three Scholarships tenable for one year at King's College for Women, Campden Hill, London, beginning in October next.

The Scholarships, including board and residence at the College, will be of the value of one hundred and twenty-six guineas each and a further payment of £30 towards expenses will be made to each of the scholars.

The intention of these Scholarships is to assist their holders in qualifying for higher posts in the nursing profession.

The Scholarships are open to any nurse trained in the Nightingale School who possesses its certificate.

Intending candidates must send in their names to the Matron, St. Thomas's Hospital, on or before June 30th next; and all applications must state the age of the candidate, the date of the certificate held, together with a statement of the nature of the work the applicant has been engaged on since the date of the certificate.

THE HEALTH SERVICES BILL.

The Health Services Bill which is now being drafted by the Ministry of Health, will arouse great interest in nursing circles, as it is understood that the proposals under the consideration of the Government include further provision for the hospitals of the country, to give local authorities power to provide new hospitals where they are required, and to co-ordinate the work of all hospitals within a given area.

As nursing is one of the most indispensable departments in hospital management, the Nurses' Organizations will no doubt carefully scrutinise the Health Services Bill when it is available. Let us hope Nursing Education will have been considered in this connection.

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