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**EDITORIAL.**

**THE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE CALENDAR.**

The Committee on Education of the National League for Nursing Education in the United States of America have done world-wide service to trained nurses in arranging and publishing a calendar commemorating the Centennial of Florence Nightingale, composed entirely of extracts selected from her writings. It is to be feared that the modern nurse is not familiar with the writings of the great law-giver of her profession, who for her wisdom, her breadth and diversity of outlook, her enunciation of principles applicable not only to her own time but to all time is comparable to England's greatest genius—the immortal Shakespeare. There is no nurse who will not be both a better nurse, and a better woman, for assimilating and practising the precepts contained in this calendar.

We detach a few pearls from the string and present them to our readers:—

“Nursing is an art; and if it is to be made an art, requires as exclusive a devotion, as hard a preparation, as any painter's work, for what is the having to do with dead canvas or cold marble, compared with having to do with the living body—the temple of God's spirit?”

“There is no such thing as amateur art; there is no such thing as amateur nursing.”

“I give a quarter of a century's European experience when I say that the happiest people, the fondest of their occupation, the most thankful for their lives are those engaged in sick nursing.”

“What is sickness? Sickness or disease is nature's way of getting rid of the effects of conditions which have interfered with health. It is nature's attempt to cure. We have to help her.”

“The very alphabet of a nurse is to be able

to read every change which comes over a patient's countenance, without causing him the exertion of saying what he feels.”

“Observation may always be improved by training—to look is not always to see.”

“The first rule of nursing, the first and last thing upon which a nurse's attention must be fixed, the first essential to the patient, without which all the rest you can do for him is as nothing, with which I had almost said you may leave all the rest alone, is this: *To keep the air he breathes as pure as the external air, without chilling him.*”

“The fear of dirt is the beginning of good nursing.”

“Remember that sick cookery should do half the work of your poor patient's weak digestion.”

“It would be a noble beginning of the new order of things to use hygiene as the handmaid of civilisation.”

“Nursing the well is even more important than nursing the sick—preventive hygiene, than curative medicine.”

“The matron must be one whose desire is that the probationers shall learn; a rarer thing than is usually apparent.”

“It seems to me that the greatest want among nurses is *devotion*. I use the word in a very wide sense, meaning that state of mind in which the current desire is flowing toward one high end. This does not presuppose knowledge, but soon attains it.”

“There is no impudence like that of ignorance.”

“Never to know that you are beaten is the way to victory.”

The calendars cost one dollar each, and are to be obtained from Miss Albaugh, National Nursing Headquarters, 156, Fifth Avenue, New York, U.S.A.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)