

expose us to the danger of being influenced by all the evil which comes near us.

For most of us this mind-building is a slow process if we only drift. But those who take their minds in hand, consciously working with the Law of Evolution to build strong, well-vitalised mental bodies, may make rapid progress, and nurses, especially, will find ample opportunity for its application to high ends.

M. M. G. BIELBY.

### ECOLE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

Dr. Anna Hamilton, Directrice of the Ecole Florence Nightingale, Bagatelle, Bordeaux, writes :

"You will in a few days receive a copy of our new nursing paper, *La Dame à la Lampe*. This will be a kind of League paper for the nurses of our School, and we hope some day they may become its owners, thanks to shares. Of course the journal could not have been attempted unless Mme. Kriegh had volunteered all the clerical work for no salary. There is such a want to publish so many things about nursing in France that we felt we must have a new paper.

"You will be pleased to hear that the Memorial School of the American Nurses—Ecole Florence Nightingale—has its roof on now, a splendid flat roof where our nurses will get such fine airing. We are hoping to open the school on May 12th, the birthday anniversary of Florence Nightingale. We hope that a member of the family will be present. Miss Clara Noyes (the President of the American Nurses' Association) is coming to open the door. It is such a splendid building and the Hall will be fine. Our Chairman (M. Cruse) has made us a gift of a beautiful old stained glass window—the colours are lovely and bright—of Queen Elizabeth of Hungary giving food to the poor (St. Elizabeth after the Miracle of the Roses). I think we might place it in the window over the fireplace in the big dining hall—as they are fine windows looking over the Park. I think we might spare one.

"I am busy planting a pleasant and useful garden. The little Rockefeller Dispensary is finished, and will be officially opened on January 28th. It is most lovely and has been furnished in a most up-to-date fashion by the Rockefeller Commission. They have also sent us, last but not least, a nice nurse—Miss Jeffrys—who has been doing special tuberculosis work for years. She was trained at the London Hospital and holds C.M.B. certificate. She is to manage the Dispensary for a year and train our pupils there."

This letter reporting the wonderful progress at Bagatelle and the near realization of Dr. Anna Hamilton's life's work gives us the keenest happiness. It is years and years since we talked together of all these marvels which have now come to pass.

### OPEN LETTER OF THANKS.

#### FOR LEGAL TITLE OF "REGISTERED NURSE."

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—There are times when a public acknowledgment of debt is due, and to-day, when I have received the Certificate of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, certifying that I have been admitted to the General Part of the Register maintained by the Council, and that I am entitled in pursuance of the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919, to take and use the title of "Registered Nurse," is a fitting time to recall some of my indebtedness to you.

In the first place I owe you the opportunity of training at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and my certificate of three years' training; for though I received it in the eighties, with far-sighted wisdom you had realised not only that three years was the shortest period for the really efficient training of a nurse, but also that in the interests of the patients of that great hospital it was necessary to require this period of service, and with you to realise was to enforce.

When, to our sorrow, you resigned the Matronship of the hospital, the nurse training-school of which you had organised, and for which you had done so much, for other duties, you still kept the interest of the nursing profession close at heart, and the efficiency not only of the nurses of one hospital, but of all nurses, and their organisation, became your objective. You saw that the best method of obtaining this was by an Act of Parliament providing for their registration by the State—a suggestion which had never before been made in any other country in the world, but which now has world-wide acceptance—and early in 1888 on your initiative, the British Nurses' Association of which Her Royal Highness Princess Christian graciously accepted the Presidency was launched at a public meeting at St. George's Hall.

I well remember attending that meeting, when that true friend of nurses the late Sir William Savory presided, the earnestness and enthusiasm which characterised it, and the applause which greeted the opening statement of its Royal President that "the first object of the Association was to obtain for the calling of nursing the recognised position and legal constitution of a profession. . . . It will follow from this that in the future every member of the nursing profession must have been educated up to a definite standard of knowledge and efficiency." From that day to this you have worked unceasingly to attain that end, and it is no small thing that the nursing profession in this country has had at its disposal the wisdom, the genius, the initiative, the devoted work, of so selfless and courageous a leader as yourself.

Perhaps I should put dauntless courage first, for over and over again, through the long fight to obtain State Registration of Nurses, it has been put to the test. At the initiation of the movement

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