

THE NIGHTINGALE SHORE HOME.

The Nightingale Shore Home, the new Home of the Queen's Nurses, at 10, Mall Road, Hammersmith (opened on Saturday, July 1st, by H.R.H. Princess Louise Duchess of Argyll), is quite charming, giving an impression first of adequate fundamentals such as the space, air, and sunlight, essential for good health, and then of comfort, harmonious colouring, beautiful pictures, which rest the eyes, and the spirit to which they are the windows, when busy nurses return from their day's work to gather fresh strength for work to come.

It will be remembered by those who have followed the fortunes of the Hammersmith and Fulham District Nursing Association, that it had its headquarters at Carnforth Lodge, Hammersmith, close to the Fulham Road. The lease fell in, and the purchase price was prohibitive, and eventually, as the Fulham D.N.A. was separated from the Hammersmith Branch, and proximity to Fulham was then no longer imperative the house at 10, Mall Road was purchased. Out of the sum of £1,100 subscribed as a memorial to Miss Florence Nightingale Shore, the circumstances of whose tragic and violent death in a South Coast train, will be within the memory of our readers, the necessary alterations were carried out, and a room in her memory has been set apart as a guest room for Queen's Nurses passing through London, which should prove a real haven of rest and refreshment.

On entering the hall, which is papered with a self-coloured paper, and has a dark brown dado and a white frieze—brightened on Saturday last with fuschias, spireas, and variegated plants—one realised that the airiness was due in part to the current of air passing through the house from the door at the farther end of the hall leading to the garden at the back, for one of the delights of the house is that it has a quite large garden, a greenhouse, space for a chicken run, and, in addition, possesses accommodation for six horses, by letting which the Committee hope to reduce the interest still due to the bank on £2,000 of the purchase money.

The dining room, with office beyond, is on the right as one enters, and the kitchen behind, with service hatch opening into the dining room—an arrangement which must minimize the work of a busy domestic staff. On the left is the nurses' sitting room, with restful green walls, and behind, the sitting room of the Superintendent, Miss Rogers, a charming room with self-coloured walls, blue carpet, blue and brown chair covers, delightful pictures, a big window at the farther end, and at the side a French window opening into the garden. The general impression of brightness was heightened by the profusion of red and white fuschias, and pink and white carnations and ferns, which decorated the mantel-piece and tables.

Upstairs there are two floors with a bath room on each, and arrangements for shampooing the

hair have not been forgotten. Each nurse has a comfortably-furnished bedroom, the colour of the papers being green for the most part, but that of the Superintendent's room is self colour, and the guest room—the memorial to Miss Nightingale Shore—a restful blue.

Deep interest centres of course in this room. At the door is an old Gaelic Rune "recovered by Kenneth Macleod":—

RUNE OF HOSPITALITY.

I saw a stranger yestreen;
I put food in the eating place
Drink in the drinking place,
Music in the listening place,
And in the sacred name of the Triune,
He blessed myself and my House,
My cattle and my dear ones.
And the lark said in her song,
Often, often, often,
Goes the Christ in the stranger's guise.
Often, often, often
Goes the Christ in the stranger's guise.

In this room the carpet like the walls is blue, and any guest must, we think, be permeated by its restfulness and charm. The black satin eiderdown, with a bright blue and pink border, on the spotless bedding of the brown bedstead promises warmth and comfort. Over the bed hangs a picture of the lovely Madonna and Child from Raphael's "Madonna di San Sisto," and amongst other well-known pictures are that of "Gethsemane," "Peace," a Good Shepherd, and a picture of Miss Florence Nightingale, with, near by, that of her namesake and godchild, to whose memory the room is dedicated, Miss Florence Nightingale Shore. There is a bureau where letters may be penned, books for the literary-minded, and near the pictures of No. 24 General Hospital, to which Miss Nightingale Shore was attached, a little glass case suspended on the wall containing her medals and other decorations. The atmosphere of stillness, of service, of self-sacrifice which pervades the little room makes it seem a holy place.

Amongst those assembled to receive Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Argyll, were Councillor, Marshall Hays the Mayor of Hammersmith, in his official robes, Chairman of the Committee of the Home, the Superintendent Miss Rogers, Dr. Walter Fry, Hon. Secretary, and the Bishop of Lichfield (the Right Rev. J. A. Kempthorne, D.D.).

The Mayor, in welcoming the Princess to the Borough of Hammersmith, referred to her interest in Nursing, and in this Home in particular, an interest he was confident would be continued.

In reply, the Princess expressed her delight at visiting the Home and said how splendidly its nursing staff dovetailed in with those of the Kensington Home. Her Royal Highness concluded, "Thank you for asking me; I wish you good luck, and hope that you will carry on as you have been doing."

The Bishop then said the dedicatory prayers, saying in conclusion:—

"To the glory of God and the good of the people of this place, we bless and dedicate this House."

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