

romantic scenery surrounding her beautiful birth-place (Bramerton), close to those still lakes, the Norfolk Broads, and its proximity to the ancient city of Norwich, with all its picturesqueness and beauty, and legendary lore, may have had its effect on her future life, and helped to render her the greatest woman of her day.

But the great pioneer of modern Nursing, and to whom we must offer our homage, is undoubtedly

MISS FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

It has been left for her, not only to organise, but to see her grand ideas for woman's work carried out. Not only in *theory*, but in *practice*, does she set before us her great example.

Miss Nightingale was born at Florence in 1829. Brilliantly accomplished, she early exhibited intense devotion to the alleviation of suffering. For ten years she studied at different Hospitals in Germany and elsewhere, noticing the various methods of administration. It was during the Crimean War that her name became a household word. Her devotion can never be forgotten, nor her name otherwise than blessed. Like Mrs. Fry, she was possessed of remarkable beauty, which, with rank and wealth, she devoted to the service of her fellow creatures. Our space is too limited to relate a thousandth part of her great and life-long work; we can only recognise that all modern improvements, and the immense success of the system of training Nurses—we may say the knowledge of Nursing in any way—are all due to the great organising genius and practical example of Miss Nightingale. So great was her fame during the war, that the Poet Longfellow wrote a stanza in her honour, naming it "Santa Philomena"—

"So, in that house of misery,
A lady with a lamp I see
Pass through the glimmering gloom,
And flit from room to room
As if a door in heaven should be
Opened, and then closed, suddenly.
A lady with a lamp shall stand
In the great history of the land:
A noble type of good,
Heroic womanhood!"

Miss Nightingale has shown us what a Nurse and true woman should be; let us endeavour to emulate her bright example.

Many years ago, when a woman was unfitted by age, intemperate habits, &c., to earn her livelihood, she simply "turned Nurse." That epoch fortunately belongs now to the past.

Fifty years ago the trained Nurse was unknown. It was not considered necessary, or, more probably,

never thought of at all. Strange that people, only as distant as our own grandparents, should trust the lives of those they hold so dear to the grossest ignorance. No person above the peasant class ever thought of Nursing. A few years later Nurses began to be a little better looked after, but even then their lives were a species of slavery. Their time was chiefly occupied in scrubbing and cleaning, and beyond a little necessary attention to the patient, very little more was expected. A mere machine, the ordinary knowledge supposed to be contained in the R.R.R's was generally conspicuous by its absence; and they were mostly elderly women—literally beasts of burden—with nothing to brighten their melancholy lives, and very badly paid.

There was still another step between the past and present: regular training became general, and younger women taken from the respectable working class were considered eligible as Probationers. But there was yet very great room for improvement, though the movement was in a right direction. Many of the old Nurses remained, using their baleful influence over the still uncultivated and somewhat ignorant minds of the younger aspirants for Nursing fame.

They still had very menial duties to perform, and were kept very closely to this kind of employment—in fact, learning very little if anything of Nursing beyond the Ward work. Women of a higher class and better education then began to fill the vacancies as they occurred, as head Nurses or "Sisters"—and at that time there was a great line drawn between them.

During the past eight or ten years a more rapid change still has taken place. Women of good education *only*, and those of moderate social position, can be tolerated as Probationers. At length it has come to be understood that cleaning fire-places, scrubbing floors, &c., need not enter a Nurse's duties; and, in fact, the domestic class have disappeared entirely, and have, it is to be hoped, found their proper level. The employment of Ward-maids to perform the late menial tasks of the Nurses has moved them up a degree or two; and instead of endeavouring to transform a fire-place into a looking-glass, she is now engaged in taking temperatures, &c., and attending to her patients. Study comes in for a share of her attention. She is able now to comprehend the duties of a Nurse, and willingly resigns her mantle of the floor-cloth, dish-cloth, and duster to anyone whose ambition it is to receive it.

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