

WHAT INTERNATIONAL DELEGATES SHOULD SEE IN ENGLAND IN 1925.

Every nurse who visits Great Britain on her way to the meeting of the International Council of Nurses at Helsingfors in July, will surely wish to gain what first-hand knowledge she may of the early surroundings of Florence Nightingale, O.M., Founder of Modern Nursing, for though it is the pride of British nurses that she was of British parentage, yet she belongs not to one country, but to all those where nurses are trained on the basic laws which she laid down, not to one generation, but to all, for her magnificent labours in relation to nursing are the heritage of humanity, and we may adopt the words of the President of the Royal College of Physicians, when recently unveiling the bust of John Hunter at St. George's Hospital, and say of her, that this wonderful genius was born so much in advance of her time that even now, more than 100 years later, she has hardly been overtaken. The name and fame of Florence Nightingale are associated chiefly in the public mind with Army Nursing Reform as the result of her splendid efforts in the Crimean War, but it is because she realised and enforced the truth that nursing is not only a technical handicraft but a science that we owe her an inestimable debt. She has given to the nursing world practical, tangible laws, in her broad-minded and unanswerable works on nursing and hygiene she has laid down the principles of nursing too clearly to be refuted; she founded the school for the training of nurses in connection with St. Thomas' Hospital, London, which bears her name, with the Nation's gift of £50,000 on her return from the Crimea, and led the way from the maze of good intentions to the clear path of practical usefulness, establishing nursing on a scientific basis as a vocation peculiarly adapted to women.

Those interested, should pay a visit to South Street, Park Lane, London, W., and pause at Number 10, where Miss Nightingale lived during the latter part of her life, and died on August 13th, 1910, attended in her last illness by nurses from the Nursing Sisters Institution, Devonshire Square, E.C., which, as our readers know, Mrs. Elizabeth Fry took so leading a part in founding.

Again, a visit should be paid to the Guildhall, King Street, Cheapside, rich in historical associations, and art treasures and memorable in connection with Miss Nightingale because

here was conferred upon her, on March 16th, 1908, the Honorary Freedom of the City of London, the highest honour in the gift of the Corporation, though as owing to advanced years, and impaired health, she could not receive the gift in person the casket containing the resolution offering to her this Honorary Freedom, was presented by the Right Hon. the City Chamberlain to Mr. L. H. Shore Nightingale, acting as her representative. In the Art Gallery is to be seen the marble statuette of Miss Nightingale by Mr. Walter Merrett, which is here reproduced.



THE MARBLE STATUETTE OF FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE, O.M., FREE SISTER OF THE CITY OF LONDON, IN THE ART GALLERY OF THE GUILDHALL

the world knows, she was born in the lovely Italian city, the name of which she bore, but much of her early life was spent at Embley Park, near Romsey, in Hampshire. She worshipped Sunday after Sunday in the little village church of East Wellow, and it was to East Wellow that she was taken,

In the Royal United Service Institution, Whitehall, S.W., are enshrined various bequests made by Miss Nightingale, to be placed where soldiers might see them as her executors should decide—the jewels given her by Queen Victoria, the bracelet from the Sultan, other medals and Orders together with an engraving of the ground round Sebastopol, and the bust of herself given to her by the soldiers for whom she did so much.

On the south side of the Thames, opposite the Houses of Parliament, and close to Westminster Bridge, is St. Thomas's Hospital, where there is the Training School for Nurses which bears her name, in which she took a deep and personal interest to the day of her death.

There are various memorials of Miss Nightingale throughout the country, the best known of which is the bronze statue in Waterloo Place, London, S.W., at its junction with Pall Mall. It is a disappointing monument, and some day we hope one which satisfies the aspirations of her disciples may be erected, perchance in marble from the land of her birth.

In the grounds of the Royal Infirmary, Derby, is a memorial marble statue of Miss Nightingale by Countess Feodore Gleichen, depicting her holding a lamp aloft, behind which, carved in stone, are the words, "Fiat Lux," and Liverpool has its memorial also, outside the Queen's Nurses Central Home in Prince's Road.

As it is the wish of those nurses who desire to "walk worthy of the vocation wherewith they are called" to walk figuratively in the footsteps of Florence Nightingale, so many will, no doubt, wish to walk literally in her footsteps for a brief space. If but one day can be spared, then we counsel them to make a pilgrimage to East Wellow. As all

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