

### THE NURSES' ASSOCIATION OF CHINA.

#### How Florence Nightingale's Birthday was Kept in Central China.

Just one year ago, four small Schools of Nursing that had functioned for many years were amalgamated into one Union School of Nursing in connection with the fine new up-to-date hospital that marks the union of the medical work being done by the London and Wesleyan Missionary Societies at Hankow.

The first group of nurses to graduate since the union was accomplished received their diplomas at the time of Florence Nightingale's anniversary. As May 12th, the actual day of her birth, fell on a Sunday, the graduation ceremony took place on Saturday, the day before, at the Community Church Hall in the City.

For weeks beforehand, preparations had been made, invitations issued, and the nurses had eagerly looked forward to this great day which marked the recognition of past achievement and the promise of future usefulness.

The Hall was gay with flowers and overhead hung the red and gold satin banner with the name, "Hankow Union School of Nursing" inscribed on it. To the strains of the processional, a body of sixty nurses, dressed in full uniform marched up the aisle to the seats in front, making a very impressive sight.

The Chair was taken by Bishop Logan H. Roots, and the Service began with the singing of the Nurses' hymn: "Gracious Spirit, dwell with me."

The address was given by a prominent Chinese Wesleyan minister, whose splendid exposition of the ideals of a true nurse was at once a challenge and an inspiration.

The diplomas, tied up with red and gold ribbon (the colours of the Nurses' Association of China) were presented by a well-known lady of the community.

Some musical items, one given by a group of the Nurses themselves, added much to the enjoyment of the ceremony.

At its conclusion, one hundred and fifty guests partook of the sumptuous tea contributed by the ladies of the community.

In the evening, after returning to the hospital, a Chinese feast was given to the Staff by the happy graduating nurses.

On Sunday, Florence Nightingale's birthday, the usual Sunday Service was made a special occasion to commemorate the anniversary of it. The Nurses in uniform filled the front pews of the Church, and the Chinese preacher, taking the incident of Jesus washing the disciples' feet as his text, told of the life of Miss Nightingale which was lived in the spirit of Him who came not to be ministered unto but to minister. He told his congregation how that her work had inspired the dawn of an entirely new day in the work of nursing the sick and afflicted of the world. How that this work had come with its blessing and happy influence to the Far East, and was helping young China to realise that the Christian nursing profession provided an avenue of service for any enthusiastic and well-educated young people who desired to serve their country in some practical manner.

Did not the hearts of the Nurses quicken with aspiration at the thought of Florence Nightingale's devoted life of service and her faithful following of God's leading. How much it has meant of blessing to the whole world, yet is it not always thus that the glad yielding of talents in the service of the King of Kings makes life very rich, satisfying, and fruitful—the only life that is life indeed!

This very interesting account of the way in which Florence Nightingale's birthday was kept in China has been unavoidably held over, owing to pressure on our space in connection with the International Council and Congress at Montreal.

### Looking Forward to 1937.

We have received the following interesting letter from Miss G. E. Stevenson, Principal of the School of Nursing, the Union Hospital, Hankow:

"I was so pleased to read in the 'B.J.N.' that Mlle. Chaptal was the new President elected at Montreal. I saw something of the heroic efforts that Mlle. Chaptal has made when I was last in Paris, and am so glad the Congress is to go there. After that we do trust it will come to China. We all feel that by 1937 China will have better railways, and the nursing profession will be more developed and stabilised, and we are hoping that in the year 1937, Yen-ching University will not only be the place of gathering, but will also have a Chair of Nursing there. This is merely a dream at present, but there are signs that make us feel our dream is not a wild one. I spent the month of July in Peking, and as I explored its beautiful and historical old palaces and temples, I thought many times how much you would have enjoyed it.

"I found out this summer that the overland journey from London to Peking by train could be done in fourteen days, and cost £30 one way. I was dining at the beautiful Rockefeller Hospital one day just after the rumpus between Russia and China broke out, and Miss Taylor, the Dean of the Nursing School there, remarked: "Now, how distressed we should all have felt if the European nurses had been here in Congress, and could not have gone back by train." So many things make us feel it certainly is all for the best that China should wait a few years before entertaining the Congress. Owing to the troubles, Yen-ching University, where we were to have stayed, is only being formally opened next month (in September). It is a beautiful dream of a building, in Chinese style of architecture, with pointed roofs and some very artistic decorations covering the stucco on the outside of the various buildings. The roofs and spires of the Summer Palace can be clearly seen from the University, and, in fact, the Palace is only a short walk away. I was present at a Nurses' dinner on the evening of July 4th, in a quaint Chinese restaurant in part of the old Forbidden City grounds, which is now a public park, in memory of Dr. Sun Yat Sen.

"I did not realise until this summer, when I stayed with the Secretary of the Nurses' Association, at Peking, that this School of Nursing is now the largest one in China. Although there are other schools that have united, we now have the largest.

"On September 1st, over twenty new student nurses will start their preliminary course. I am also starting a six months' post-graduate course for graduate nurses then. They will help me with this class of new probationers and thus gain experience, so that later they can teach in smaller hospitals. There is a tremendous call for Chinese nurses experienced enough to help with teaching and training. We talked of it at great length in Peking, and the thought of the Chair of Nursing was born of this need. The students for the Rockefeller School of Nursing have to take one year of college at Yen-ching before they enter the hospital. So already there is some co-operation between the University and Hospital. In Central China here, next month, a University is being opened. Canon Sheeter, of England, is a guest here at the moment, and is to open the new University. I am hoping that our School of Nursing may benefit from this in the future."

Miss H. E. Shih, who was one of the Chinese Official delegates on the Grand Council of the I.C.N. at Montreal, was, shortly before leaving, called upon by the Government to proceed to Kiukiang and prepare 1,000 beds there; 500 more at Nanchang; and to organise the Army Nursing Service. On reporting to the Minister of Health on her return, she found plans for the registration of nurses proceeding.

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