

such intense affection as that with which she spoke of her. She said she never saw anyone like Florence for the natural intense love of God—as a personal being. She says F. does not care for *individuals* (which is curiously true) but for the whole race as being God's creatures. One little speech of Florence's Parthe told me—"I look to 30 as the age when our Saviour took up his work. I am trying to prepare myself to follow his steps when I am as old as He is . . ."

"I'll tell you one or two more of her speeches. . . Speaking of the cholera in the Middlesex Hospital, she said, 'The prostitutes come in perpetually—poor creatures, staggering off their beat! It took worse hold of them than of any. One poor girl, loathsomely filthy, came in, and was dead in four hours. I held her in my arms and I heard her saying something. I bent down to hear, 'Pray God that you may never be in the despair I am in at this time.' I said, 'Oh! my girl, are you not now more merciful than the God you think you are going to? Yet the real God is far more merciful than any human creature ever was, or can ever imagine.'"

"That text always jarred against me, that 'Who is my mother and my brethren?'—and there is just that jar in F. N. to me. She has no friend—and she wants none. She stands perfectly alone, half-way between God and His creatures. . . . She is, I think, too much for institutions, sisterhoods and associations, and she said if she had influence enough not a mother should bring up a child herself; there should be creches for the rich as well as the poor. If she had twenty children she would send them all to a creche, seeing, of course, that it was a well-managed creche. That exactly tells of what seems to me *the want*—but then this want of love for individuals becomes a gift and a very rare one, if one takes it in conjunction with her intense love for the *race*; her utter unselfishness in serving and ministering. I think I have told you all—even to impressions—but she is really so extraordinary a creature that impressions may be erroneous, and anything like a judgment of her must be presumptuous, and what a letter I have written!"

Later she writes:

"Oh! Kate! I wish you could see her—outsidely only! She is tall; very slight and willowy in figure; thick, shortish, rich brown hair; very delicate pretty complexion; grey eyes, which are generally pensive and drooping, but when they choose can be the merriest eyes I ever saw; and perfect teeth, making her smile the sweetest I ever saw. . . ."

"She is so like a saint. . . . She must be a creature of another race, so high and mighty and angelic, doing things by impulse or some divine inspiration—not effort and struggle of will. But she seems almost too holy to be talked about as a mere wonder. Mrs. Nightingale says, with tears in her eyes (alluding to Andersen's 'Fairy Tales'), that they are ducks and have hatched a wild swan. She seems as completely led by God as Joan of Arc."

I never heard of anyone like her. It makes me feel the livingness of God more than ever to think how straight He is sending His spirit down into her, as into the prophets and saints of old."

Living alone at Lea Hurst for a time, Mrs. Gaskell writes: "One companion I have got—an owl. Miss Florence Nightingale picked it up, thrown out of its nest in the Parthenon; nursed the little round puff-ball and here he is (just like the owls beside Minerva, and on the old Greek drachmas), a regular mischievous intelligent pet."

We read in Cook's "Life of Miss Nightingale" that in the bustle and hurry of leaving for the Crimea—though so wise and quiet herself, when her family were leaving Embley to see her off—the feeding of her owl was forgotten and it died. It was embalmed and "the only tear its mistress shed through that tremendous week," says her sister, "was when I put the little body into her hands. 'Poor little beastie, it was odd how much I loved you.'"

This story is quoted from the "Life and Death of Athena, an Owlet from the Parthenon," a manuscript book charmingly written and illustrated by Lady Verney in 1855, and sent to Scutari, "to try and make Flo and Mrs. Bracebridge laugh when F. was recovering from her fever."

We cannot imagine the reminder of the tragic death of her darling little pet would ever be a laughing matter to the Florence Nightingale we know!

APPOINTMENTS.

MATRON.

Isolation Hospital, Acton.—Miss M. J. Gilfillan, S.R.N., has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the General Infirmary, Bolton, and the Lostock Isolation Hospital, and has been Night Superintendent at the Monsall Fever Hospital, Manchester, Ward and Theatre Sister at Ancoats General Hospital, Manchester; Ward Sister at St. James' Hospital, Balham; Night Superintendent and Assistant Matron at the North Middlesex Hospital, Edmonton; and Matron at Woodbridge Isolation Hospital, Guildford. Miss Gilfillan is a Certified Midwife.

The Tyrrell Cottage Hospital, Ilfracombe.—Miss E. F. E. Shellsell, S.R.N., has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, Exeter, and the Barnwood House Mental Hospital, Gloucester, where she was later Night Sister. Miss Shellsell has also been Private Staff Nurse, Holiday Sister and Student Housekeeper at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital.

Eston Hospital, Yorkshire.—Miss C. M. Oliver, S.R.N., has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the North Riding Infirmary, Middlesbrough, and has been Ward Sister in the T.F.N.S. in Bristol and Salonica, Matron at the Cottage Hospital, Horden, and Night Superintendent at the Staffordshire General Infirmary, Stafford.

The Hospital, Exmouth.—Miss J. Atkinson, S.R.N., has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, London, where she was later Night Sister and Ward Sister, and at the Royal Albert Dock Seamen's Hospital, London. Miss Atkinson has also been Theatre Sister at the Grosvenor Hospital for Women, London, Assistant Matron at the Yarrow Hospital for Children, Broadstairs, and Assistant Housekeeper at the Royal Infirmary, Manchester.

Municipal Maternity Home, Nelson.—Miss G. E. Myers, S.R.N., has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Primrose Bank Infirmary, Burnley, and St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, and has since been Nurse at Queen Mary's Hospital, Carshalton, Ward Sister at Reedyford Hospital, Nelson, and has done Private Nursing.

Montgomery County Infirmary, Newtown.—Miss M. Horn, S.R.N., has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the North Staffordshire Infirmary, Stoke-on-Trent, and has since been Staff Nurse at the Royal Infirmary, Bradford, Sister at St. Luke's Hospital, Lowestoft, and Sister Tutor and Assistant Matron at St. Helens Hospital.

ASSISTANT MATRON.

Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester.—Miss J. Doak, S.R.N., has been appointed Assistant Matron. She was trained at the Victoria Hospital, Burnley, where she was later Day and Night Sister, and has also been Home and Housekeeping Sister at the General Infirmary, Bury, Home Sister at Lewisham Hospital, and obtained a Housekeeping Certificate from the Norfolk and Norwich, Hospital, Norwich.

SISTER TUTOR AND HOME SISTER.

Bethlem Royal Hospital, Monk's Orchard, Eden Park, Beckenham, Kent.—Miss F. A. Parncutt, S.R.N., has been appointed Sister Tutor and Home Sister. She was trained at St. Stephen's Hospital, London, and at the Bexley Mental Hospital, and has been Assistant Home Sister and Relief Sister at St. Stephen's Hospital, and Chief Charge Nurse at the Bexley Mental Hospital.

SISTER TUTOR.

City Infirmary, Nottingham.—Miss M. Collington, S.R.N., has been appointed Sister Tutor. She was trained at St. Nicholas' Hospital, Plumstead, and at the Monsall Fever Hospital, Manchester, where she was later Holiday Sister. Miss Collington has also been Night Superintendent at the City Hospital, Little Bromwich, Birmingham, Day Sister and Night Sister at the London Fever Hospital, Islington, and Sister Tutor at the Corporation Hospital, Bootle, Liverpool.

THEATRE SISTER.

Grosvenor Hospital for Women, Vincent Square, Westminster.—Miss G. M. Saddler, S.R.N., M.B.C.N., has been appointed Theatre Sister. She was trained at the King Edward Memorial Hospital, Ealing, where she was a Gold Medallist, and where she was later Theatre Staff Nurse.

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