

An artistic show-case with glass lid has been ordered, and is in process of being made to hold the photographs, letters, and other articles of special interest connected with Miss Florence Nightingale.

Miss Spreadbury, M.B.C.N., has presented to the College a letter written by Miss Florence Nightingale to the Surgeon General at Netley, Sir William Aitken, and given to Miss Spreadbury by his nephew, J. D. Malcolm, Esq., F.R.C.S.

Miss Mary A. Peddie has sent me two short notes written to her sister, Miss Clara Sibbald Peddie, by Miss Nightingale, she also sent me a copy of a letter written by Miss Nightingale to her sister on her appointment as Home Sister at King's College Hospital, which I propose to read as it is most interesting.

I am presenting three letters from Miss Nightingale, one being given to me by Dr. Isabel Macdonald, also a Paper written by Miss Nightingale, "How some People have lived and not died in India." This paper was read at the Social Science Congress, Norwich, October, 1873, which contains her signature, also date. Thus we have already acquired seven autograph letters of Miss Nightingale.

Statistics are still being collected of those nurses whose names appear on the Scroll of the Diploma, also of other pioneer nurses. Books and papers are being collected of pioneer nurses, and matters of interest to the History of Nursing are in the process of being tabulated.

I hope, in a few months, to be able to show you some tangible result of the History Section's work."

The Report was adopted. Miss Bushby then read the following two very interesting letters written by Miss Nightingale.

**Letters to Miss Clara Sibbald Peddie,  
The Home Sister.**

10, South Street, Park Lane, W.  
April 30/88.

My dear Miss Peddie,—Miss Monk has been so kind as to write and tell me of the changes at K.C.H. (King's College Hospital), and that you are now "Home" Sister.

I hope I may give you joy and give joy also to those who have to be under your care.

The "Home" Sister has need to be so motherly, so disinterested in matters of sympathy, giving so much, exacting so little—so impartial and generous—carrying all her charges on her heart before God.

I often think it is the most trying and responsible position in the Hospital—almost more so than that of the Matron, because the "Home" Sister's charges change so continually. Few are the perfect Matrons but fewer still are the perfect "Home" Sisters.

I wish you from the bottom of my heart the highest success, for I know you will aim at the highest. And I trust that your health is now good; but I fear you take too little exercise.

Do the Classes you give yourself begin directly? And do the Professors give Lectures and Clinical Lectures to Probationers, and Nurses as well as Probationers?

I should be so glad to know after you have had a little experience of it how your new post fits you, and whether it pinches anywhere?

God speed you is the fervent prayer

of yours ever affly,

(Signed) FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

I have been unable to write before from illness.

May 28/89.

10, South Street, Park Lane, W.

My dear Miss Peddie,—How kind of you to remember my poor old birth-day. And your roses were as lovely as your kindness. And how much your long letter interested

me. Do not judge of me by my silence—it is not the heart's silence. I think of your work and long always to hear about it, and that you are well and successful in the highest sense.

God speed.

May I ask to be kindly remembered to Miss Monk and believe me

ever most truly yours

(Signed) F. NIGHTINGALE.

**Letter to the Rev. Henry Hawkins, Chaplain of Colney  
Hatch Asylum.**

**Trained Asylum Nurses.**

London, June 2/79.

My dear Sir,—I wish I could help you with regard to what you wrote to me about on May 10, viz., finding a lady "to organise a plan for the after care of poor and friendless female Convalescents."

But alas! overwhelmed with business and illness, I am almost the last person to help you, as I would. God speed your Meeting on June 5.

I am on the other hand going to ask you for help. I am frequently written to to know if there are *trained* Lady Matrons and Lady Nurses to be had to attend or superintend the nursing of female lunatics. Latterly I have had two letters from the Chaplain of Robben Island, S. Africa, asking for such.

Have you *trained* Ladies and *trained* Nurses for your Asylum Work at Colney Hatch?

Could you recommend such? And above all have you a *Training School* for Nurses for Lunatics? Or do you know of one? When I speak of a Training School, I mean a Training School, such as we have for *Hospital Nurses* and *Matrons* now at St. Thomas' Hospital, and at several other large Hospitals, where the Probationers go thro' at least a *year of systematic training* in the Hospital Wards, with an organised system of superintendence, where their work is tested, and where they live under discipline in a Home adjoining.

All this, I should fancy (but I ask one of the greatest experience and devotion in yourself) was yet more necessary for Lunatic than for Hospital Patients.

How I wish that I had time and strength as I have inclination to carry out such a work. But I have far too large a circle of duties already and I am a prisoner from illness to my room.

I leave out entirely the question of Asylum Nurses being trained *out of* not in the Asylum, nor about the Patients for their duties, which seems yet more utterly impossible than for Hospitals and Hospital Patients.

In Germany there are Training Schools for Asylum Nurses, and Lady Attendants in *Lunatic Asylums*.

A lady, half German and half English, whose sister died as Lady Assistant in such an Asylum, is likely to come to live in England and might be interested in the work.

Now that *Hospital Nursing* is so largely carried on by ladies, I hope that you will be able to tell me that you have found many *ladies* for your Asylum attendance, and have trained them in your wards.

You have, I assure you, my best wishes that you should succeed in all your works. Would I could give you more than good wishes! God help your work. If the Chaplain of Robben Island should come to England, might I place him in communication with you?

Under severe stress of overwork and illness, but pray believe me,

My dear Sir,

Ever your faithful servant,

(Signed) FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

The Revd. Henry Hawkins.

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