

### COMMEMORATION OF THE BIRTHDAY OF FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE IN PARIS.

On May 12th, at the same time as it was being celebrated in England and Italy, the anniversary of Florence Nightingale was commemorated in Paris.

At 140 rue des Bac, the Mother-House of St. Vincent de Paul's Sisters of Charity, a small gathering surrounded the Superior of this ancient order of nurses, to whom was offered the beautiful wreath sent by the Los Angeles' Nightingale Society. M. Firmin Roz, a Frenchman who represents excellently the old friendship between America and France, spoke and saluted the Superior, explaining in chosen words the touching idea of the Los Angeles Committee. He welcomed Mme. la Générale Pau, wife of the President of the French Red Cross Society, and Mlle. Chaptal, President of the International Council of Nurses, and he thanked the delegates of foreign Embassies who were present.

After him, the Secretary of the English Embassy said a few words which expressed the gratitude of the British Government for this commemoration of Florence Nightingale.

Then Mlle. Chaptal, who was representing the French National Association of Trained Nurses as well as the International Council of Nurses, spoke and said how happy she was to take this opportunity to send her thanks to the Los Angeles Society. Their generous inspiration had been the occasion for a ceremony which gave her the privilege as President of those Nursing Associations to honour at the same time the revered memory of Florence Nightingale, pioneer of the modern nursing movement, and the saintly remembrance of St. Vincent de Paul, the promoter of nursing in France, four centuries ago.

### A DEEP VOCATIONAL CALL.

In a leading article on Florence Nightingale in its May 16th issue the *Lancet* says:—The supreme merit of Florence Nightingale's work lies in the fact that she, and in the first instance she alone in the world, perceived three things and perceived them as component parts of one ideal. She realised the need of a deep vocational call as clearly as any deaconess of the early church would have done; but she saw that this spirit of charity needed for its practical expression a measure of scientific training; and, thirdly, she learnt at the outset that the nurse, thinking rightly and rightly equipped, should form a unit in an organised scheme, under which results would be produced immeasurably larger than the sum of individual efforts. And just as Florence Nightingale knew that nursing as she found it, when her great call came, needed above all things the information of modern science, so to-day would she know that, while the principles which she instilled remain fundamentally sound, the actual methods of training nurses must be perpetually modified by the growth of wisdom and the lessons of science, general and special and, above all, by the changes in social laws and customs inevitable upon the progress of civilisation.

### A COMMEMORATION SERVICE AT ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.

On Sunday morning, May 17th, the Sunday following the Anniversary of Miss Nightingale's birthday, a Commemoration Service was held in the Chapel of St. Thomas's Hospital, S.E., arranged by the Nightingale Fellowship.

Noticeable in the front benches were H.H. Princess Helena Victoria, President of the Ladies' Guild of the Hospital, the Treasurer, the Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, G.B.E., M.V.O., Members of the Almoners' Court, of the Medical Staff, and Mr. W. H. Bonham-Carter, Secretary of the Nightingale Fund.

In indoor uniform were the Matron and Superintendent of the Nightingale Training School, Miss A. Lloyd Still, C.B.E., R.R.C., Miss D. S. Coode, Assistant Matron, and Sisters and Nurses of all grades. Members of the Nightingale Fellowship were also present, so that the large Chapel was crowded to overflowing.

#### THE ORDER OF SERVICE.

The Service began with the entrance into the Chapel of the Hospital Chaplains (the Rev. Raymond Cornish and the Rev. Hopkins James) and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of all England and Metropolitan, preceded by his personal Chaplain bearing his archiepiscopal cross.

The Lesson was taken from the 44th Chapter of the Book of Ecclesiasticus beginning with the words:—

"Let us now praise famous men."

and concluding:—

"Their bodies were buried in peace,  
And their name liveth to all generations.  
Peoples will declare their wisdom,  
And the congregation telleth out their praise."

The Prayer of the Nightingale Fellowship adapted, by permission, from that of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, appropriately followed the Collect for the day.

#### THE FELLOWSHIP PRAYER.

O Almighty and Everlasting God, Lord and Ruler of all the Angels, who hast Heaven for Thy throne, and Earth for Thy footstool; Vouchsafe, we beseech Thee, to prosper this our School and Fellowship, and to adorn its members with signal gifts of Thy Holy Spirit; remember, we beseech Thee, especially, all those who at this time are in lonely and distant places, or weighed down under heavy burdens; strengthen us in all our labours and make us to abound in truth and purity, in faith and charity; and so endue us with the blessings of Thy grace that we may never be false to the obligations of our calling. And grant, we beseech Thee, O Lord, to us and to all Thy faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve Thee with a quiet mind: through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

The hymn "The Son of God goes forth to war . . . who follows in His train" must always be associated with Miss Nightingale, and her introduction to the life of Agnes Elizabeth Jones.

"They climbed the steep ascent of Heaven  
Through peril, toil and pain;  
O God, to us may grace be given  
To follow in their train."

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