

in work of humanitarian nature). It was the intention of Florence Nightingale to attend the unveiling of the statue of Sister Dora, but her advanced age coupled with an illness made it impossible for her to be present."

The pictorial report so kindly sent has already found a niche in the Library of the History of Nursing Section of the British College of Nurses, together with a copy of "Sister Dora: A Biography," by Margaret Lonsdale, published by Kegan Paul, French and Co., 1886.

" Does it seem a bitter thing
To tend the sick, to cheer the comfortless,
To serve God ever, and to watch and pray,
Because thou must be lonely? The bright sun
Goes on rejoicing in his loneliness;
And yon meek moon rides through the dark blue vault,
Unmated in her nightly wanderings.
Nor deem thy life shall be uncomforted.
Flowers bloom along the way that Duty treads,
And as thou goest on thy stern, high path,
Glimpses will come to thee of heavenly joys
Transcending all the base world reckons of."

Progress was slow in regard to organised teaching. When I entered the School in 1867 there were a few stray lectures given, some rather antiquated medical books and a dummy upon which to practise bandaging; the taking of temperatures, pulse and ordinary tests for urine, being strictly the work of the medical students.

A pupil signed on for six years, which did not mean her remaining in St. Thomas's Hospital for that time. At the end of one year she was supposed to have gained sufficient knowledge of nursing, relying upon her empirical power of self-teaching to become a pioneer.

Certificates were not given in those early days. Applications at times were made to Mrs. Wardroper from smaller hospitals to supply a matron and a certain number of nurses to go with her. They at least were taught that bed-sores were a disgrace and some such leading features of nursing as symptoms of certain diseases, etc. Erysipelas after operations was rampant in those days, suppuration looked for as a matter of course. Healing by first intention created a slight sensation. Cleaning of surgical instruments was done by giving them a wash in hot water, teeth and



The Mayor of Walsall, Councillor W. D. Forsyth, with Miss Hart, Superintendent of the Manor Hospital, and Nurses of the General Hospital.

A NURSING NOTE, 1867.

Mrs. Wardroper was the pioneer of the reformation of Protestant nursing in Britain. When she was appointed Matron of St. Thomas's Hospital, London, things were in much the same condition as Dickens described. Her first step was to try to establish sobriety. It occurred to her to endeavour to get some educated women to help her, which she succeeded in doing, and as the name of nurse was a degraded one, she proposed they should take the title of "Sister," each one taking charge of the wards under one surgeon or physician. Women were engaged under the name of scrubber, to do the rougher work, and others chosen as nurses, under the superintendence of the sisters. By close attention to diet and sleeping accommodation, reform began, going from step to step.

When Florence Nightingale returned from the Crimea after her noble and memorable work there, a sum of money was presented to her by the country in acknowledgment of her great services. This she decided to use as a nucleus for establishing a School for Nurses.

Miss Nightingale went round the London Hospitals and found Mrs. Wardroper quietly engaged in her reforming work. Miss Nightingale made an arrangement with the Governor, Mr. Baggaly, in 1858, for the receiving of a certain number of pupils; each to have a separate cubicle and a special dining room provided for them with a neatly appointed table.

crevices unheeded, but they were nicely polished. Sponges were made to look white, the one proof of cleanliness.

Miss Nightingale was naturally deeply interested in Military nursing after her great experience in the Crimea, and she was asked to organise the nursing at Netley Hospital. Mrs. Deeble (an officer's widow), was sent by Miss Nightingale to St. Thomas's to gain an insight into the work, and later six nurses were selected to go with her to Netley to take the position of "Sister," these being the first Protestant sisters in the British Army, and from these the vast present organisation has sprung. I was one of those six. At that time, Miss Nightingale was confined to bed, but interviewed each of us at her bedside, giving us kindly words of encouragement and goodly counsel.

Miss Nightingale dwelt much upon the personality or character of the nurse as being the chief necessity, but that I think applies to every individual whatever their position in life. It was upon this ground she opposed the "State Registration of Nurses," which prolonged the struggle. Miss Nightingale feared it might produce a mechanical nurse, losing the beauty of the calling in that of the professional.

R. S.

THE NURSES' MISSIONARY LEAGUE.

We are informed that the Bishop of Blackburn is the President of the Nurses' Missionary League, and not the Bishop of Durham, as stated in our last issue.

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