

we have listened this afternoon. May I then just stress three precepts, and offer them to the students to whom we are bidding farewell. A thought for yesterday, to-day, and to-morrow.

#### YESTERDAY.

During the past year of intensive study, it is improbable that there has been time for historical research. Had there been, the charm and romance of nursing history would no doubt have distracted your minds from the practical curriculum for which the time has been all too short. I would invite you, now that the prized Certificates are in your safe keeping, to realise what you owe to those creators of nursing ethics, the saints, and to the organisers and administrators who for centuries have laboured so that you may reap.

Nothing is mythical in our humanism. Not even those aerial visions, the Valkyrie who conducted the souls of warriors worthy to be slain in battle to Valhalla, the Palace of Immortality, in which such heroic souls for ever dwell.

Are not the nurses who now staff our aerial ambulance the direct emulators of the maidens of Odin, whose teaching demands that in all your ministrations in the art of healing, in your reverence and care for the body, *you shall bear with you the Soul of Man?*

#### TO-DAY.

Realise to the full the precious gift of life. The amazing beauty and glory thereof. A little patient once said to me, "When I awake in the morning it takes quite a minute to get over the Joyful. Here I am again, out of the dark, light, skies, flowers, birds, all mine, then I say 'Thanks be.'"

No one needs to realise "the Joyful" more than those privileged to heighten standards of health, and invigorate the sick.

The depreciation of spiritual values, pessimism, the inferiority complex (which I cannot understand) must be eliminated from the environment of the healer. Hope is their talisman. Let every nurse awake to "the Joyful," not forgetting "Thanks be."

#### TO-MORROW.

Here we need vision; as it was in the beginning will not suffice. Mental vision is a rare instinctive attribute with which few are gifted.

We nurses are specially favoured in that our great preceptor, Florence Nightingale, was a mystic, and thus her teaching penetrates beyond the veil. She has revealed to us a vista of possible advancement which future generations of nurses may attain, and when the international educational Memorial in her honour, about to be established, encircles the World, higher standards of health and happiness must inevitably result.

These three things I would have you remember:—

1. Do not materialise your vocation. Spiritualise your service.
2. Absorb and reflect the beauty, the joy and the beneficence of Life in association with mankind.
3. Look forward, scan the endless vista of progress, take in hand the script of physical and moral law, and as a simple pilgrim set forth and apply it.

My five minutes is up, but may I be permitted to speak of the proposed Nightingale Foundation which is to be organised throughout the world as a memorial to one of the greatest of women—Florence Nightingale?

Many of you know that within a fortnight the projected scheme for the Foundation will be reported to the Inter-

national Council of Nurses in Paris with the work which has been accomplished through the International Committee during the last twelve months, and we have every hope that the delegates there from all over the world will be in sympathy with the broad principles which have been laid down by the Conjoint Committee in London under the most sympathetic and able chairmanship of Sir Arthur Stanley, together with support from Dame Sarah Swift, Miss Lloyd Still, Miss Musson, and the officers of the League of Red Cross Societies. We should consider ourselves very poor advocates if with so much support and so much sympathy—and I may add so much ability—our scheme should not be accepted. We have very few people to convince, but those perhaps who do not quite understand the great work which has been accomplished by this international Course at Bedford College, in conjunction with the College of Nursing, we shall have to instruct, so that they will realise what has already been done; for to be out of sympathy with this great movement, not to take part in it, will be regretted in the future by everyone who stands aside. I therefore ask all those of our audience to-day, who I know are in sympathy with us, and all the students from the various countries who are going home, to give us their help in every possible way. They will be the pilgrims from this time forth who will realise what it is to be, I hope, a Florence Nightingale student: to have their names associated in this Course with so great and splendid a personality. I believe it will add great lustre to the careers of all those to whom these certificates are awarded. The educational course has not at present been considered and agreed; the basis is here, but we are ambitious people and look forward in the future to the curricula of the Florence Nightingale Foundation extending into every branch of health work and nursing. But that is for the future. We go to Paris determined to return with the Ashes.

Votes of thanks were proposed by two of the students, Miss Irena Weimanówna from Poland, and Miss Cécile Theys from Belgium, and those who have been present at these gatherings in the past were once again amazed at the grace and fluency with which these students speak and express their thoughts, simply and sincerely in a foreign language.

Sir Arthur Stanley associated himself warmly with the Memorial Scheme, as did Mr. Ernest J. Swift, on behalf of the League of Red Cross Societies, saying that though it was no longer able to do to the full what had been done to carry the Courses over the first ten years, it would by no means cease to take an interest in the future of the work.

#### Reception at Bedford College.

Those present then adjourned to the fine Hall of Bedford College to enjoy the charming hospitality of the Council of the College, and the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies, and to say a reluctant farewell to the students who on the following day would be scattered far and wide.

#### NURSES' REGISTRATION ACT 1919 (Amendment Bill) Successfully Blocked.

The Bill introduced by Mr. Batey, M.P., to amend the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919, has met with opposition as follows:—

Leave granted to introduce the Bill on April 3rd. Came up for Second Reading, but blocked on each occasion, on April 12th and April 28th.

Deferred\* on April 28th to May 4th; May 4th to May 8th; May 8th to May 16th; May 16th to May 23rd; May 23rd to May 30th.

\* Objection taken, and the Bill thus again blocked.

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