

NURSING ECHOES.

The Florence Nightingale statue in Pall Mall was brightened with lovely flowers on the anniversary of her birth on May 12th. Very early came a delegation from the Nightingale Fund at St. Thomas's Hospital carrying a beautiful chaplet of mauve and yellow shaded irises mounted on laurels—inscribed "The Nightingale Fund—With love and in remembrance from Her Probationers Past and Present."

The National Council of Nurses also sent a chaplet of yellow tulips and purple irises, mounted on laurels, with just the words "With Homage" inscribed on its card.

The Red Cross tribute was magnificent—a Red Cross in blazing scarlet carnations on a cushion of rare white flowers.

The inscription :—

"To the Greater Glory of God, and in homage to the unfailing and honoured memory of Florence Nightingale to whose example the Red Cross Societies throughout the world owe their inspiration."

We stood near the base of the statue for some time—only one nurse crossed the street to study the tokens of homage—and a group of twenty school girls, led we presume by a teacher, crossed in front of the statue like a string of ants, but not one turned her head, or exhibited the slightest interest—either in the statue or why it was decorated! We felt inclined to clutch that teacher and try to inspire her with a sense of reverence for exalted intellectual power. Alas! How vain an impulse!

The presentation of Certificates to the Students completing the International Courses held at Bedford College for Women (University of London) is always a most interesting function, and this year it will be more attractive than before, owing to the fact that the Provisional Committee for the Florence Nightingale International Foundation are joint hosts with Bedford College, the Students having been selected by them.

Dame Alicia Lloyd Still, R.R.C. (President of the International Council of Nurses), will present the Certificates to the Students who have completed the International Courses on Monday, July 9th, at 3.30 p.m. Sir Arthur Stanley, G.B.E., C.B., M.V.O. (Chairman of the Provisional Committee), will be in the chair, and addresses will be given by Mlle. L. Odier (Member of the International Red Cross Committee), by Miss G. E. M. Jebb, M.A. Cantab. (Principal of Bedford College), and by Lord Cecil of Chelwood. Votes of thanks will be proposed by Students, Mrs. Mitra (India), and Miss Brauer (Sweden).

After the Meeting a Reception will be held at Bedford College, which (wet or fine) lends itself to a delightful gathering—either in the lovely garden or spacious halls.

The Treasurer of Guy's Hospital recently announced at a General Court of Governors of the hospital that he had received a letter from Sir Reginald Bonsor stating that a sum of £763 19s., together with annual subscriptions promised of £58 5s., had been raised by the friends of the late Hon. Mrs. Percy Thellusson

for a "Gladys Thellusson Memorial Fund," and that it was the wish of the donors that the capital sum should be invested and held in trust by the President and Governors of Guy's Hospital, and that the income from the endowment, together with the annual subscriptions, should be used for the benefit and comfort of the nurses at Guy's Hospital as the Nurses' Representative Council might from time to time determine. It was expressly stated to be the wish of the donors that the income from the fund should not be used in relieving the hospital of any expense, but should be used entirely for supplying the nurses with additional luxuries as they may from time to time determine. The Court of Governors of Guy's Hospital have agreed to the formation of the "Gladys Thellusson Memorial Fund," to be administered in accordance with the wishes of the donors.

One of the happiest inspirations of modern times in support of the work of nurses has been the opening of beautiful gardens to the public by their owners on stated days, on payment of a small sum, in aid of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing, whereby thousands of pounds are added annually to the funds of the Institute. The pleasure afforded by these opportunities to garden lovers is untold. Who, for instance, that has visited Embley Park, the Hampshire home of Florence Nightingale, by the kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Crosfield, when the rhododendrons are in bloom can ever forget their exquisite beauty, and what nurse can fail to carry away a mental picture of the gracious surroundings in which the founder of modern nursing grew up to womanhood?

Dr. J. M. H. MacLeod, chairman of the Homes of St. Giles for British Lepers, of whom there are from 50 to 100 in this country, drew attention at the annual meeting at 11, Harley Street, W., to the difficulty in obtaining sufficient financial help for their support. The disease, he said, is not notifiable, and the Homes are dependent on voluntary contributions, the Ministry of Health being prepared to give its blessing to the work the Homes are doing, provided they do not appeal to it for a grant. The patients are cared for, and some of the nursing is done voluntarily by the Anglican Community of St. Giles. The majority of sufferers from leprosy in this country are people coming from abroad with definite symptoms, or who have developed them later. There are also a few contact cases, but none of these have occurred amongst those attending the patients.

Dr. Robert Cochrane, medical secretary of the British Empire Leprosy Association, pointed out that should the Homes have to close down for lack of funds the situation for the patients would be very serious, since some of them are destitute and without homes, and the State takes no official cognisance of their existence.

Surely this is a duty incumbent upon the State, if not from humanitarian motives, then for the protection of the community from this most dread disease, the infectious nature of which in certain stages is unquestionable. The hearts of all true nurses must be moved with compassion for, and the desire to help, these most pitiful sufferers.

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