

Her great little books were still living stuff. Her aim for nurses was that they should be a trained profession, not of sentimental aspirations but of diligent life.

She had proved to be one of the greatest women who ever lived at any time, and of any nation, because out of her work had come such tremendous results.

Trevelyan had said of the Crimean War that there were great losses for small gains, but that the hero of the war was Florence Nightingale.

She once wrote of "one for whose life all are better off than if he had not lived." That was her conception of greatness.

Of Florence Nightingale herself, we might say, "Here her spirit lives, lives that it may become world-wide, here it is imprisoned; it is for you to see that it is liberated."

She believed that man can control his life and labours only by self-discipline, devotion and self-dedication. From the day that she vowed her life to the service of others, she acted on the assumption, "I control circumstances, not circumstances me."

To-day, in setting their hands to raising an adequate memorial to her, the Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of Great Britain were undertaking a task which was a simple duty.

Sir George Newman's comprehending and sympathetic delineation of Miss Nightingale's personality and work was warmly applauded.

The Executive Committee Re-elected.

The present Executive Committee was re-elected, and authorised to make arrangements for an Appeal for funds to help to finance the proposed scheme and to elect a Secretary and Treasurer.

The Committee comprises Mary, Countess of Minto, Dame Sarah Swift, Sir Arthur Stanley, Sir Harold Fawcus and Mrs. Rome, nominated by the British Red Cross Society; and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Dame Ann Beadsmore Smith, Dame Alicia Lloyd Still, Miss H. Dey, and Miss E. M. Musson, nominated by the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain.

The appointment of Sir Arthur Stanley and Miss E. M. Musson, as the two delegates to represent the National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of Great Britain at the Inaugural Meeting of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation on July 5th, and to serve on the Grand Council, was confirmed.

Dame Alicia Lloyd Still, Superintendent of the Nightingale Training School, moving a vote of thanks to the Duchess of Devonshire for presiding over the meeting and to Sir George Newman for his eloquent speech, emphasised the need for vision in connection with this new venture. There must, she said, be nothing parochial about it. The proposal for this Memorial to Miss Nightingale had first been made by the International Council of Nurses over twenty years ago. The War had quenched the spark for a time, but Mrs. Bedford Fenwick had kept it alive, and at the right moment had fanned it into flame.

Speaking of the educational work carried on by the League of Red Cross Societies at Bedford College, Dame Alicia spoke of the value of this international intercourse between nurses of many nationalities. She invited those present who were not familiar with the work going on at 15, Manchester Square in connection with these International Courses, to acquaint themselves with it.

The meeting then terminated, and tea was hospitably served.

The wealth of lovely flowers in the Hall and mementoes of Miss Nightingale in the adjoining sanctum—the Probationers' Sitting-room—provided the appropriate and inspiring environment.

HER GRACE THE DUCHESS OF DEVONSHIRE.

The attendance of the President, the Duchess of Devonshire, at the first meeting of the National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of Great Britain, at St. Thomas's Hospital on June 14th, enabled the members to realise the ability and charm of its Chairman whose association with its work will be of inestimable value.

The Duchess is the wife of the ninth Duke and was a daughter of the fifth Marquis of Lansdowne, so well known to registration pioneers for his courtesy and kindness when, in 1908, he facilitated the passing of the second reading of Lord Ampthill's Bill for the Registration of Nurses in the House of Lords.

The Duchess of Devonshire is Mistress of the Robes to Her Majesty Queen Mary, a Lady of Justice of St. John of Jerusalem, a J.P. and an hon. LL.D. Leeds University. She was in Canada from 1916-1921 when the Duke was Governor-General of the Dominion, and takes a deep interest in the social well-being of the community around her lovely homes in Derbyshire, of which Chatsworth is the most regal, its gardens of world-wide renown.

NIGHTINGALEIANA.

Mr. Albert I. Myers, of Bond Street, W., writes, in a recent letter to *The Times*, referring to the Address given by the Archbishop of Canterbury at St. Thomas's Hospital, at the service in commemoration of the birthday of Florence Nightingale, in which His Grace alluded to the unrelieved mass of suffering and disease among millions of our fellow subjects in India, Africa, and the Far East: "I have before me a long series of letters by Florence Nightingale to Surgeon-Major James Pattison Walker, M.D., Secretary of the Bengal Sanitary Commission, which exhibit her deep concern and her untiring efforts to relieve the suffering to which the Archbishop refers."

Mr. Myers then quotes some most interesting letters of this series, in which the following are included:—

On October 18th, 1864, Miss Nightingale wrote:—"I wish Sanitary Rules could be made a religion, a fanaticism with the ignorance of the natives—we know that Moses made sanitary things a part of his code for the people."

Again, on January 3rd, 1865, she wrote:—"There is nothing—really nothing—on this side of the grave which I long to do as much as a visit to India. While others try to run away from India, I would desire more than anything else to go to India. I seem to know so well what I want to do there that it appears to me as if it would be going home, not going to a strange country. But, alas, for me, it is quite impossible. I shall never leave London except for the grave. . . . If there were ever any hope of reaching India alive and of my being able to go on working when there as I do here, I believe I should be tempted to go. . . . I may tell you in confidence that in 1857, that dreadful year in India, I offered to go out to India in the same way as to the Crimea. . . ."

Again, on October 18th, 1865:—"John Bull is a conceited ass and thinks the climate ought to take care of him, instead of him taking care of the climate. Batavia was the most deadly place in the world. But now people go there for their health."

The last letter, dated August 10th, 1868, contains the following passage:—

"Five Years ago we finished the reports of the R. India Sanitary Commission which has, Praise to God, borne good fruit. . . although we must all feel, as people whose idea is higher than human power of performance, that the work in India might have progressed more rapidly."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)