

A MEMORABLE DATE.

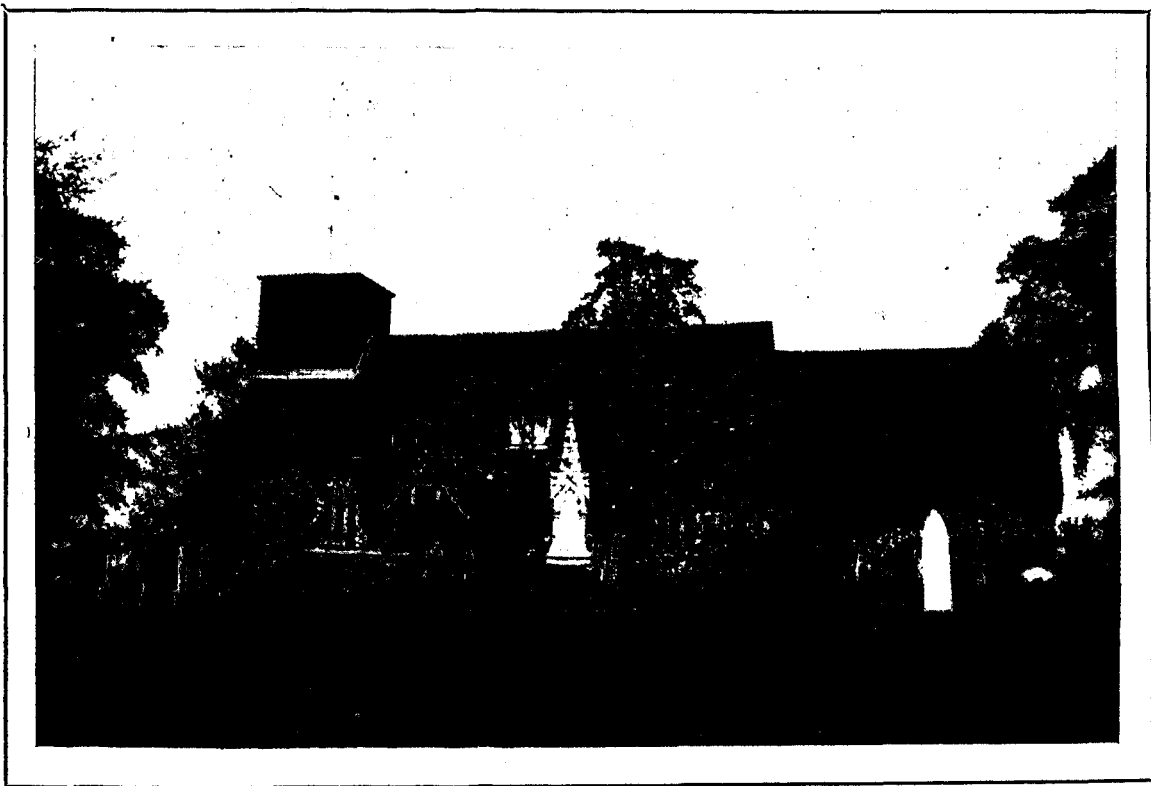
AUGUST 20th, 1910.

The homage of the Nation to Miss Florence Nightingale, O.M., found expression on August 20th, twenty-four years ago, at the Memorial Service at St. Paul's Cathedral, when representatives of the King and Queen, the Church and State, the Army, the Medical and Nursing Professions, and members of the public, assembled to do her honour. With dignified and impressive ceremonial and exquisite music, fitting tribute was paid to her memory.

But even more moving and intimate was the simple service in the little village church, where Miss Nightingale had so often worshipped in her girlhood, at East Wellow, near Romsey, where she was still remembered by some

Guardsmen of the Coldstream, Grenadier and Scots Guards. In the porch stood at attention Private John Kneller—a Crimean veteran who served in the trenches before Sevastopol and lost an eye there. Subsequently he was in the hospital at Scutari, where the sight of Miss Nightingale on her night rounds was a familiar one to him.

During the simple service Miss Nightingale's body lay in the chancel, before the altar—over which was the large Maltese cross of orchids and roses sent by Nightingale Nurses—and in front of the Embley Park pew. At its conclusion the procession formed once more, and, preceded by the clergy, proceeded down the path bordered with magnificent wreaths to the Nightingale vault where the committal sentences were spoken. To-day the simple inscription "F.N. Born 12 May, 1820.



East Wellow Church, Hampshire, with the Nightingale Tomb to the right of the porch.

of the older inhabitants. Amongst those who awaited the special train which brought her from London to Romsey station was a former porter, then blind, who had known Miss Nightingale when resident at Embley House, and who begged to be led on to the platform to hear the footsteps of the bearers "bringing her home."

At Embley Park the little procession left the main road, and by permission of the owner passed close to the house and then along the Wellow Road, near the cottage of the shepherd whose collie dog "Cap" was Miss Nightingale's first patient, till it came to the lych gate of East Wellow Church, where it was met by the officiating clergy.

Preceded by six old tenants and workmen on the Embley estate who knew Miss Nightingale in bygone days, and followed by relatives and personal friends, the precious burden was carried to the church by

Died 13 August, 1910," on the Nightingale tomb, marks the hallowed spot to which nurses from all quarters of the globe make reverent pilgrimage.

Of special interest was the visit paid to East Wellow on July 5th, 1932, by the Presidents (or representatives) of many National Organisations of nurses who had accepted office on the International Florence Nightingale Committee, and on the invitation of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain were attending a Conference in London to confer upon the draft Scheme proposed for the organisation of a Florence Nightingale International Foundation. They gathered round the Nightingale tomb while the Presidents of the National Councils of Nurses of Great Britain, Norway, Canada, Belgium, Finland, Bulgaria, India, reverently laid lovely flowers around it. Flowers were also placed on behalf of the International Council of Nurses, the Old Internationals'

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