

able manifestations, of the Scutari incident that demonstrated so clearly to a uniquely gifted mind and a vision extending far beyond her day, a world-wide need and a means through which the need should be met. Here was conceived a social plan and programme, constructive in its beginnings, creative in its far-reaching ends. "The Son of God goes forth to war. Oh, daughters of God, why are there so few of you to answer?" was her cry.

The response may have been slow, the programme pitifully hesitant in its adaptation to scientific progress; but the great health movement, as expressed through the service of nursing, has moved steadily on.

The master mind, who demanded in 1860 for this field of life activity, courses in the sciences, would to-day, with incredulity that it had not already been achieved, demand that relationship to the medical and social sciences and educational methods through which the soundest and fullest contribution of the nurse could be ensured.

A memorial Foundation worthy of Florence Nightingale could only be expressed through a programme of nursing education that combined, as her great vision knew it should (so high she held its function), the best that science has to offer in the search for the cure and prevention of disease, and that art has to offer through those techniques and skills which heal the body and restore the mind.

That the present programme of nursing education has demonstrably failed there can be no question, for how very few schools are concerned to prepare the nurse in those aspects of preventative medicine with which to-day the medical profession is increasingly informed, and in which the nurse has so strategic an opportunity for service.

With an appalling incidence of mental deviations in the United States, with the increasing understanding of the inter-relation between the psychic and physical, only recently has there been an appreciable increase in the number of students qualified for practice in this field. It is, however, immensely heartening to find that the graduates of schools of nursing where psychiatry is included in the curriculum are increasingly selecting that branch of nursing—or pediatrics. The latter from the standpoint of prevention of physical or mental crippling, a branch of utmost importance, but requiring a far broader knowledge of the child through the various stages of development than is usually found in the basic professional course.

Florence Nightingale established a school on the basis of the immediate nursing needs for curative medicine, but she called these practitioners "Messengers of Health." The disciples of Florence Nightingale must find their place in the vanguard of the health movement, not in the rear with the slaves to traditional methods.

In the laboratories of the world new findings are issued daily. The test of their value is their applicability to the needs of society, namely, the needs of men, women and children individually considered.

Can there be any question as to the part of the nurse with the increasing understanding of the art and science of human engineering. This social worker who enters the home from the opening to the closing chapter of life, for a service which gives unlimited opportunity for interpretation in simple, understandable terms of the findings through which a physically, mentally and emotionally balanced society may be increasingly produced.

Until the value of every human life is accepted, and those conditions provided through which these values may be realised, there will be no peace on earth.

In the fullest interpretation of the word, nursing is creative service.

Florence Nightingale personified, and very fully, the

essentials that Professor Eddy discusses.\* A home of culture, a scholarly parent who approved of higher education for women, provided a fitting environment and inheritance for one who was to be more than a leader, the arch-type indeed of a greatly needed profession. A well-balanced mind, through personally achieved experience, brought with most meagre assistance and despite all obstacles, order and law into the chaos of the military hospitals of the Crimea. When that work was accomplished, the spiritual insight that had led her to prepare herself through the hard school of experience, demanded a further task—the foundation of a programme of professional education, the essential factors of which the world would do well to accept, for the preparation for all life activities, a programme of inter-related theory and practice, theory as expressed in the ever-expanding field of knowledge in the medical and social sciences, practice as expressed in the acquirement of the techniques and skills of nursing procedures in relation to the body and the mind of the patient.

Florence Nightingale's "Notes on Nursing," as a textbook for the field of curative and preventive medicine, is a compendium of modern scientific findings reduced to common sense.

The doors of the universities in the United States and Canada are now open to students of nursing. The call is not to the few but to all nurses to prepare themselves for the service demanded by preventive medicine, and even more by the knowledge, increasingly released for the direction of the physical and mental development of the child.

The statistics relating to mental and physical crippling, delinquency and crime in every country, leave no question of the imperativeness of the demand.

In more than one country may be found convincing demonstrations of the efficiency of newer methods in dealing with every aspect of social and mental defects. The fullest answer will be found through an integration of all those sources of aid in an international centre to be released to the uttermost parts of the earth.

Professional organisation, national and international, we have achieved; but that is not enough. What we need now in this highly organized social life of ours is an organisation for service in every community, beginning with the lowliest home and extending throughout the world.

In a very full sense, my young colleagues, you are pioneers in a field of activity of immeasurable importance to mankind. Your presence here leaves no question as to the sincerity of your purpose or your vision. What each will achieve we do not know, but we believe in the words of His Grace the King of this country, who has united us in a great objective, that you will "gather up the treasures of the past in carefully preparing the path for the future," for you have sought and found a path that leads to the good life, which is indeed the only satisfying life.

Dean Goodrich, who has become well known to the students during the last few weeks, then presented the certificates most charmingly, with a cordial handshake and a special smile for each one.

Sir Arthur Stanley then said that in previous years it had been the custom for two of the students to offer their own thanks and the thanks of their colleagues and of all those assembled to the various speakers, and especially to the lady who had given the principal Address. This year the privilege had fallen to Miss Murray, of Canada, and Miss Pade, of Denmark.

\*The contribution of Greek culture, of Hebrew moral and spiritual insight, of Roman law and order, of scientific technique, and of social organisation.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)