

## SERVICE IN COMMEMORATION OF FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE, O.M., AT ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.

The annual service in commemoration of Miss Florence Nightingale, in the Hospital Chapel at St. Thomas's Hospital, S.E., was this year held on Sunday, May 10th, attended by present members of the Nightingale Training School and of the Nightingale Fellowship.

H.H. Princess Helena Victoria, attended by Miss Du Cane, Lady-in-Waiting, the Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, Treasurer of the Hospital, and the Lady Riddell, were amongst those present.

The chapel, though large, was crowded, and the nurses who came in shortly before the commencement of the service each brought a chair, and placed it in the aisle in order to secure a seat.

His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, preceded by his chaplain, Dr. A. C. Don, carrying the archiepiscopal cross, and other clergy, took his place in the sanctuary, and the service was conducted by the Rev. R. B. Cornish, Hospitaller, and the Rev. V. B. W. Hyde.

### The Lesson.

The lesson was from the book of Ecclesiasticus, and the well-known verses beginning, "Let us now praise famous men," contained verses especially appropriate for the occasion.

"The Lord hath wrought great glory by them . . .

"Leaders of the people by their counsels, and by their knowledge of learning meet for the people, wise and eloquent in their instructions: . . .

"All these were honoured in their generations, and were the glory of their times.

"There be of them, that have left a name behind them that their praises be reported."

The Nightingale Fellowship Prayer was followed by one for the Florence Nightingale International Memorial Foundation.

God Who of old time didst teach the hearts of Thy faithful people by sending to them the Light of Thy Holy Spirit; grant, we beseech Thee, at this time, Thy especial blessing and guidance to those who are working for the realisation of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation; that its work may be the means of helping, throughout the world, those whose vocation is service to the poor and suffering; that they, following steadfastly in the steps of Him Who went about doing good, may ever strive, in their service to mankind to glorify Thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who with Thee and the same Spirit liveth for evermore. Amen.

Then followed the hymn, always associated with Miss Nightingale.

The Son of God goes forth to war . . .  
Who follows in His train?  
A noble army, men and boys,  
The matron and the maid . . .

They climbed the steep ascent of Heav'n  
Through peril, toil, and pain.  
O God, to us may grace be given  
To follow in their train.

As the volume of melody died away, we thought of Agnes Jones and of the great company of nurses trained in the Nightingale and other Schools, who had "climbed

the steep ascent," and there echoed in our hearts the prayer for grace to follow in their train.

### The Bidding Prayer.

Then followed the Bidding Prayer, when we were bidden to pray, amongst others:

For the whole Congregation of Christian people dispersed throughout the whole world; for the King's most Excellent Majesty, our Sovereign Lord King Edward, and particularly in this place for Cosmo, Lord Archbishop of this Province of Canterbury, Primate of all England and Metropolitan; for the Universities of this land; and for all Schools and Colleges of sound learning and religious education; for all Hospitals for the care and healing of the sick, and in this place especially for the ancient foundation of St. Thomas the Martyr of Canterbury, for all those who hold office herein and all its members, that their labours may bear fruit in goodness of life, and in all true learning and in pure service.

"Walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called."

Then followed the Address by the Archbishop of Canterbury, who spoke on the text: "I beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called."

Dr. Lang emphasised Florence Nightingale's sense of vocation; he spoke of her visit to Kaiserswerth; her realisation of the demand this sense of vocation made upon her whole personality, heart, and will.

On this, her own day, I beseech you, said Dr. Lang, to "work worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called," a vocation dedicated to suffering humanity. Honour all men, give the best that is in you, to the one and only claim upon you, their suffering and need of healing.

The Archbishop referred to one gallant member of the brave company of those who walked worthily of their vocation—John Melly—who had been sent forth from outside that hospital with his prayers and blessing and who had died in the very act of succouring a wounded Abyssinian, one of the sufferers in the tragic ruin of a defenceless and brave people. Dr. Melly cared nothing, said his Grace, for regard or position. "God rest his gallant soul."

It was utterly wrong to separate physical and spiritual healing and when this was constantly remembered, then the sense of vocation rose to its full height and each act performed for the sick became an act of devotion.

### The Thanksgiving.

After the Address, followed by a hymn, came the Thanksgiving, said by all standing, "For the Life and Example of our Founder, and of all who have followed her in her Spirit of Service."

"We praise and bless Thy Holy name O Lord for the Life and Example of Florence Nightingale, Founder of this Training School, and all other Thy servants, inspired by her Spirit of Service, who are departed hence from us with the sign of faith, and now do rest in the sleep of peace."

There followed, appropriately, the Te Deum, and a memorable service concluded with the singing of the National Anthem, and the Blessing pronounced by the Archbishop. The great congregation then dispersed, many of its members surely with a deeper sense of vocation and a wider vision of the beauty of the Spirit of Service.

M. B.

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