

THE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE NURSES' HOME, THE ROYAL INFIRMARY, EDINBURGH.

The annual visit of the Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland creates an occasion for many pleasant functions in the Scottish Capital. On May 20th, Lord and Lady Kinnaird visited the Royal Infirmary, where they made rounds of medical and surgical wards, to the delight of the patients.

Thereafter, their Graces attended a delightful open-air function for the dual purpose of laying the foundation stone of the new nurses' home and the annual distribution of prizes. The function was attended by brilliant sunshine—true "Assembly weather," as it is called in Edinburgh. After the prizes were handed to the nurses by His Grace, he congratulated not only the recipients but all nurses on their work.

There would be a bath available for every five nurses, while shampoo rooms and pantries for making tea, &c., were to be arranged on each floor.

In addition, a ward for sick nurses was to be provided on the sixth floor, which would accommodate 22 patients and be equipped with all auxiliary service rooms.

The ground floor of the building was to be allocated entirely to recreation and sitting rooms, teaching and dining rooms. The main recreation room would be approximately 80 feet by 30 feet, and opening off at each end would be a sitting-room, 30 feet square, separated from the main room by sliding partitions, so that the whole might be converted, if need be, into one room, 140 feet in length, to provide a suitable place for special functions. There were to be two dining-rooms, one for the general nursing staff and the other for maternity nurses. When completed the building would be one of the largest and best equipped nurses' homes in the country.

Link with Florence Nightingale.

One item of particular interest he would like to mention was that, owing to the kindness of Mrs. Bedford-Fenwick, President of the British College of Nurses, it had been possible to obtain a brick from the house of the late Miss Florence Nightingale, in London, which might be incorporated into the building in the Hall or Recreation Room, leaving it exposed with a plaque above it, the whole to be covered with glass, so that all may see it.

It was particularly appropriate that the name of Miss Florence Nightingale as the pioneer of the splendid system of training nurses should thus be associated with the building.

"We are indeed honoured that the foundation stone of the Home is to be laid by the wife of His Grace the

Lord High Commissioner," said Sir Thomas, "and we most cordially welcome you, Lady Kinnaird, here to-day. I now ask you to lay the stone. I know it will be well and truly laid."

Lady Kinnaird, after laying the stone, added her own tribute to the nursing profession, and spoke of her interest in the new Home. She prayed that every one of the nurses who came to this Home would be a blessing to the world.

A beautiful bouquet of rose carnations was presented to Lady Kinnaird by one of the nurses, and votes of thanks to the Lord High Commissioner and Lady Kinnaird were proposed by Harriet Lady Findlay, D.B.E.

A red-letter day indeed for all associated with the splendid Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh—especially for the nursing staffs of the Royal Infirmary, and the Edinburgh Royal Maternity and Simpson Memorial Hospital, who are to share its delightful environment.

Mr. Thomas W. Turnbull, F.I.A.A.,
M.I. Struct. E., Architect.

Miss E. D. Small, A.R.R.C.,
Lady Superintendent of Nurses.

Lieut.-Col. A. D. Stewart,
C.I.E., F.R.C.S.E., Superintendent.



HER GRACE LADY KINNAIRD LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE NEW NURSES' HOME.

In his address Sir Thomas Whitson, D.L., LL.D., C.A., Chairman of the Board of Managers, before inviting Lady Kinnaird to lay the stone, voiced the hope that the building to be known as "The Florence Nightingale Nurses' Home" would be a place that members of the nursing staff would look upon as a real home in every sense of the word. It was surely right, he said, that those who devoted their lives to the nursing of the sick should themselves be well housed. The building was to be one of seven floors and was to be of fireproof construction, and there would be six stairways, all suitably distributed over the building, to permit of easy escape in any emergency, and four lifts, of a most up-to-date type. Access would be given on to the roof of the two south wings, which would provide roof gardens, with a splendid view over the Pentland Hills.

The new Home would contain 278 bedrooms, each fitted with a wash-hand basin (hot and cold water supply), together with a built-in wardrobe and dressing table.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)