

of the strangest personality thrown up by the war, Miss Florence Nightingale, the Lady of the Lamp."

Palmerston met her after the declaration of peace, in order to discuss Netley Hospital with her. By that time, she had become a national legend. She came of a well-known family, which moved in the great world and had friends in high places, otherwise she would have been able to do nothing against the vested interests of the Army Medical Service. As a young girl she was attractive, led the usual life of a debutante, and found it intensely unsatisfying. Very early in life she felt a strange, unaccountable call to nurse the sick.

This urge on the part of Florence very naturally horrified her mother, who wished to bring her out and marry her, so that she could settle down with a husband and fulfil her destiny in the manner of any normal young woman. As events fell out, Florence never had a husband, and probably it was just as well. No man could have passed his life in the same house with that dominant, fanatical nature.

At last her disgusted family realised that she meant to have her way, ceased to oppose her wishes, and consented to let her be trained as a nurse. She showed at the outset a genius for organisation and took every opportunity to increase her knowledge, spending her time during a visit to Vienna in studying the Viennese hospitals. After the manner of all great reformers, she appears to have foreseen that the call would come to her sooner or later, and spent all her time preparing for it.

When the Crimean War broke out and ghastly stories began to trickle home of the inefficient medical service and the sufferings of the sick and wounded, Florence knew that her hour had struck. To the horror of the Army authorities, who had never contemplated the idea of females interfering in the purely male business of war, she could pull enough strings to enable herself and a chosen band of women to be sent out to the base hospital at Scutari. Understanding as if by instinct the traditional attitude of the Army supply department, she took out with her stores of hospital requisites and invalid food, purchased at her own expense, though assured that the Army hospitals lacked for nothing.

It is typical of the grim, practical streak in her that, when on the voyage out, one of her chosen band of women exclaimed romantically:

"Oh! Miss Nightingale, I am so longing to begin nursing the dear soldiers!" Florence replied briefly:

"The strongest among you will go to the wash-tub."

Her training had taught her that cleanliness means everything in a hospital, and she doubted if she would find cleanliness at Scutari. Actually she found a shambles, and spent all her days clearing it up, and her nights in writing letters home setting forth her requirements, and in drafting regulations. She never seemed to sleep, but she had iron health, and her fanatical interest in her life-work sustained her.

A determined, angry woman is not pleasant to meet, and Florence scorned the employment of tact, so that the Army medical authorities put every difficulty in her way, as is the tradition of the Army in the case of people it dislikes. Florence ignored orders and regulations, and stalked on oblivious of enraged medical officers. When she visited the Crimea to inspect hospital arrangements in the field, the Army refused to issue her rations, but it reckoned without Florence. She had brought her own food with her.

So this strange, arrogant woman founded what is now the Army Nursing Service, and her memoranda on Army nursing and hospital organisation have not been superseded to this day. She went out to Scutari in an atmosphere of odium—among other things she was considered unwomanly. The ridiculous little cape still worn by Army nurses was

designed by Florence to conceal the characteristics of the female bust, so that womanliness might be preserved as far as possible on the one hand, and the sick and wounded soldiers should not be excited on the other.

She came home in triumph, to be received by Queen Victoria, and presented with a brooch specially designed by the Prince himself.

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE SCHOLARSHIP.

Once again the £250 required to finance a Florence Nightingale Scholarship has been secured through Constituent Associations of the National Council of Nurses. As reported, there was in hand £91 1s. 9d. surplus from last year, which is fortunate, as many of the Associations did not feel able to subscribe this year. When allocated the 1938-1939 scholarship will be the ninth gift given by our National Council.

The following lecture courses are offered at Bedford College for Women or at the College of Nursing, and are available to students of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation.

GROUP A.

1. Public Health Nursing.
2. Family Case Work.
3. Principles of Hospital and Training School Administration.
4. Nursing Education.

GROUP B.

1. Personal Hygiene and Preventive Medicine.
2. Social Conditions and Social Administration.
3. General Psychology.
4. Applied Psychology.
5. Ethical Principles and Practical Problems.
6. Physiology.

GROUP C.

1. A Comparative Study of Modern Industrial Problems.
2. Principles of Education and Methods of Teaching.
3. History of Nursing.
4. Eugenics.
5. Tuberculosis.
6. Nutrition.
7. Public Health Administration.
8. Maternity and Child Welfare.
9. Psychiatry.

APPLICATION FOR SCHOLARSHIP.

Thoroughly trained nurses on the General Part of the Register, who in addition hold the Certificate of the Central Midwives Board and who are members of a constituent association of the National Council of Nurses, may make application for the scholarship. They must be aged 25 to 35, and in thoroughly good health.

Apply for further information to Miss S. A. Villiers, Hon. Secretary, National Council of Nurses, 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, sending an addressed and stamped envelope for reply.

The Advisory Scholarship Sub-Committee will meet on July 6th, to consider applications.

The Courses open on August 15th, 1938, and close on July 1st, 1939.

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