

scullery-maids which the medical profession watches and organises unmoved is a disgrace to every member of that profession. It amounts now to organised inhumanity in the name of Charity to the poor. And I don't write merely from personal bitterness, but because I have watched how the poor are treated in hospital and how they die, and it is a dreadful sight. It is the inhuman mechanisation of the system that is at fault. Humanity feels it in every branch of life, more or less, and it is not really to be wondered that it finds its apotheosis in the hospital. But because it comes to a head there, and is so flagrant, one waits impatiently for the day of its complete exposure.

Yours sincerely,  
MAX PLOWMAN.

Miss Emma Augusta Hipwell, of Wimbledon, who left £53,919 estate, bequeathed £1,000 to the Elderly Nurses Fund.

It is not often that hospital matrons' wills are mentioned in the Press, but we note that a former Matron of Middlesex Hospital, who died recently in London, left upwards of £20,000; also Dame Alicia Lloyd Still, of St. Thomas' Hospital, left £8,217.

St. Thomas' Hospital was, until recently, one of the few hospitals that paid its matron adequate salaries; the office of Matron is combined with that of the Superintendent of the Nightingale Training School. Also two colleagues left Dame Alicia Lloyd Still their little fortunes.

#### FIGHTING FUND FOR FREEDOM.

The following motion in the House of Commons is supported by 103 Members of Parliament.

#### MOTION.

"Controls.—That, in the opinion of this House, all controls and restrictions except those essential for national reconstruction and the prosecution of the war should, at the earliest possible opportunity, be removed in order to restore to individuals that freedom for which the war is being waged."

Those of us who have been on duty in London for the six years of war, facing many dangers in support of freedom are warmly in sympathy with this demand, and should communicate with our Members of Parliament inviting their interest and support.

#### NURSES WHO FRATERNISED WITH GERMAN PRISONERS OF WAR.

The Florence Nightingale Hospital, Bury, has dismissed two hospital sisters and a nurse found guilty of unlawfully communicating with German prisoners of war and sending them gifts.

They are Sister Margaret Helena Mulvenna, aged 37; Sister Winnie Cunnane, aged 31; and Nurse Ivy Nott, aged 21. No action has been taken against the two probationer nurses who were also charged.

At the trial of these nurses, held on Friday, March 2nd, all were found guilty and fined, no further punishment was inflicted. It was reported in the Press that, with one exception, these women were Irish. It is to be presumed that those who have been discharged by the authorities of the Florence Nightingale Hospital, Bury, will be sent back to Ireland so that their dangerous familiarity with German prisoners cannot be repeated in this country.

#### THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES, LTD.

A Meeting of the Council is to be held on Thursday, March 22nd, when important business will be forward for consideration.

We are pleased to hear from Registered Nurses how greatly they appreciate the article "The Truth Shall Make You Free," by Sir Waldron Smithers, M.P., which we were permitted to publish in our last issue.

As one member writes: "It is indeed a privilege for which Registered Nurses, who love their profession, should be deeply grateful that a Member of Parliament, believing in God, should have their welfare at heart. The more we realise the disastrous results which are rapidly becoming apparent as the result of the Nurses Act, 1943, the more help we nurses shall require in Parliament before our status and self respect is restored."

#### Gifts to the History of Nursing Section.

The College has received a valuable gift from Miss G. M. Poskitt, Matron of the Emergency Hospital, Rush Green, Romford. This gift is a letter from Florence Nightingale, in her own handwriting, "to the Nurses and Probationers at St. Thomas Hospital," dated 6th May 1881; and it is indeed a privilege to touch a letter inscribed and handled by Miss Nightingale. This gift will be most carefully preserved in the History Section of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., together with other letters and documents signed by Miss Nightingale.

Miss Isabel Macdonald, S.R.N., F.B.C.N., has made a most generous gift of books to the History of Nursing Section of the College:—

(1) "Elizabeth Fry, Quaker Heroine," by Janet Whitney, who writes in her preface: "Acknowledgments are due and are gratefully rendered to the Quaker Graduate Centre at Pendle Hill, Wallingford, Pennsylvania, whose grant of a Research Fellowship suggested the work in the first place." This remarkable volume contains beautiful pictures of the Gurney family and the lovely homes which they were privileged to own. The frontispiece, portrait of Elizabeth Fry in 1823, by C. R. Leslie, is a most beautiful picture which we have not seen before.

(2) "Notes on Nursing," by Florence Nightingale.

(3) "Florence Nightingale, 1820-1856. A Study of her Life down to the end of the Crimean War," by I. B. O'Malley, beautifully illustrated in colour.

(4) "A Sketch of the Life of Florence Nightingale," by Rosalind Nash.

(5) "Eastern Hospitals and English Nurses. The Narrative of Twelve Months' Experience in the Hospitals of Koulali and Scutari," by A Lady Volunteer. Vols. I and II.

(6) "A Narrative of My Experience as a Volunteer Nurse in the Franco-German War of 1870-1," by Anne Thacker, with a dedication to the Empress Frederick of Germany in the following terms: "To the Empress Frederick of Germany is inscribed this brief memoir of a Lady, who, by her volunteer service as a nurse in the Franco-German War, won Her Imperial Majesty's gratitude and regard."

(7) "The Story of Ida: Epitaph on an Etrurian Tomb by Francesca Alexander." Edited with preface by John Ruskin, D.C.L., Honorary Student of Christ Church, and Honorary Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Oxford.

Several of these valuable works are already in the College Library, but we feel sure these duplicates will be greatly valued now that they have been inscribed with the official dedication.

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