

“Render unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar’s.”

WHEN writers of important nursing events are compiling their news we are always at a loss to understand why they are AFRAID to give instinted honour to the nurse who really INSPIRED the formation of so many movements for the benefit of the nursing profession—ETHEL GORDON FENWICK.

Twice within a week we have read references in connection with the Florence Nightingale International Foundation, where her connection with this movement is entirely glossed over.

I.

From *The Nursing Journal of India*, entitled, “Historical Background,” by Miss M. I. Lambie :

“At the first meeting of the International Council of Nurses, held in Cologne in 1912, after Miss Nightingale’s death, the question of a suitable memorial to Florence Nightingale was discussed, and the idea of establishing a Florence Nightingale Chair of Nursing was accepted by the Council as being an eminently appropriate memorial to one whose ideas on education were far in advance of her day. The Chair was to be established at the University of London. The idea was set out very ably by Miss Adelaide Nutting, who at that time was the first and only Director of a School of Nursing attached to a University, *i.e.*, Teachers’ College, Columbia University, New York.”

II.

From “A General History of Nursing,” by L. R. Seymer, we read :

“In 1912 at the International Council of Nurses’ Congress at Cologne, the creation of an international memorial to Florence Nightingale was suggested by Miss Nutting and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick.”

Official Report, Cologne, 1912.

A Nurses’ International Memorial.

“But the Congress will be chiefly memorable for the proposition made by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick at the Banquet, with which it concluded, that the nurses of the world should co-operate then and there to found an Educational memorial to Florence Nightingale, a proposition warmly seconded by Miss Nutting, Director of the Department of Nursing and Health at Teachers’ College, Columbia University, New York, and supported by delegates of the various nationalities present.”

Also

In the papers and discussions from the International Congress of Charities, Corrections and Philanthropy, Chicago, 1893—published in 1949 under the sponsorship of the National League of Nursing Education, Miss Lavinia L. Dock writes in her presentation copy to this Journal :

“In dedicating this volume to the younger generation of Nurses, it must be noted by me—one of the ‘Old Timers’ that it is unfortunate and regrettable that the name of Ethel Gordon Fenwick is missing.

“For Mrs. Fenwick had visited Isabel Hampton at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore at the time when the International Congress was being planned, and she had

planned a nursing exhibit (she brought and placed it) and she and Miss Hampton had discussed and outlined the subjects for Papers.

Great Minds All.

Ethel Gordon Fenwick, Margaret Breay, Isla Stewart, Isabel Hampton Robb, M. Adelaide Nutting, Lavinia L. Dock, Agnes Snively, Grace Neill, S. M. McGahey, M. Farquharson, Sister Henrietta of Kimberley, Mrs. Gordon Norrie—to mention a few—pioneers of the International Movement, most of whom have passed on, were always too great to gloss over one another’s achievements.

We end on the same note as we began—Why are they AFRAID to give unstinted honour to Ethel Gordon Fenwick ?

“The truth is the truth beyond all reckoning.”

British Rheumatic Association.

Films on Rheumatism from the United States of America and Canada.

THE British Rheumatic Association have been scouring Europe and the Americas for any films on the social aspect of rheumatism that may have been produced, in order to show them at their Conference and Exhibition at the Chelsea Town Hall and Chenil Galleries which took place from September 27th to 30th.

Very few are in existence, those that are have been flown to this country, and were seen by a committee of experts. One from Canada and one from the United States on arthritis and rehabilitation were selected for showing to those attending the conference and exhibition. It was hoped that others might arrive in time.

Sir Ralph Richardson Opened the Exhibition on Rheumatism.

Sir Ralph Richardson of Old Vic fame, a Vice-President of the British Rheumatic Association, opened the first exhibition on “Activities, Aids and Appliances for the Rheumatic” ever to be held in this country. It was a unique effort on the part of the rheumatic sufferers themselves and their friends who form the Association to demonstrate to their fellows and to the authorities the problems of rheumatism as it affects the sufferer.

The opening ceremony took place on September 27th, to which the public visiting the exhibition were welcome. The Mayors of seven of the London boroughs, the Very Rev. the Dean of Westminster, the ex-Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of London, and a distinguished party welcomed Sir Ralph Richardson.

Annual Meeting.

The British Rheumatic Association, at its annual general meeting, paid heartfelt tribute to Dr. Hernaman-Johnson, their late chairman, who had died so suddenly as the result of his devoted work to the field of radiology.

Colonel Stoddart-Scott, O.B.E., M.D., M.P., was unanimously elected chairman of the Association. As representative of the Pudsey Division of Yorkshire, he has actively promoted the interests of rheumatism throughout the county.

The Association is a non-party organisation. All political parties are represented by the active M.P.s who are its Committee of Management.

Air Vice-Marshal Don, O.B.E., and Dr. Francis Bach, M.A., D.M., D.Phys.Med., were unanimously elected vice-chairmen for the coming year.

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