

# THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

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ETHEL GORDON FENWICK, S.R.N., HON. EDITOR 1888—1947.

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## Looking Back.

### "Nursing of the Sick—1893."

By Isabel Hampton and Others.

*(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).*

#### Presentation Volume.

WE are greatly honoured in receiving the presentation of a copy of this historical publication from our revered Miss Lavinia Dock; and we are profoundly grateful to her for her reference and the high tribute she pays to Ethel Gordon Fenwick, inscribed in this volume in her own inimitable and charming way, which we here quote:—

"In dedicating this volume to the younger generations 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.

"But some obstacle (I do not now recall what it was—sickness perhaps) prevented Mrs. Fenwick, at the last moment, from coming to the United States—had she been able to come she would undoubtedly have left on the proceedings the same impress of mental brilliancy and humanitarian earnestness that distinguished her at home, in Germany and France and London.

"Very few of that early gathering are left. There are other names that might well deserve to have been included.

"They can be found in the first reports of the American Superintendents and the British Matrons—and so 'Hail and farewell,' L.L.D., Bellevue, 1886."

This volume, "Nursing of the Sick," includes the re-publication of thirty-one papers presented at the Congress, which met in Chicago at the time of the World's Fair 1893, "by such leaders as Florence Nightingale, Lavinia Dock, Louise Darche, Irene Suttlype and Edith Draper and Isabel Hampton."

The reader will find in this most interesting work the history of the urge felt in many countries at that time, for the construction of educational standards of nursing.

As Miss Isabel M. Stewart recalls in her delightfully lucid introduction: "The Congress was not the only major event of 1893 that indicated a new orientation and a definite advance in nursing. It was in this year that Lillian Wald and Mary Brewster founded the Henry Street Settlement in New York—an experiment that was

to set a new pattern in community nursing and give dynamic leadership to the public health nursing movement.

"The first preparatory course for nurses and the first connection of any kind between a nursing school and a college was started the same year in Glasgow, Scotland, by Rebecca Strong, Matron of the Glasgow Infirmary, and the famous surgeon, Sir William MacEwan of St. Mungo's Medical College. The first official publication, THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, was started by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick in 1893\* as an organ of a newly organised nursing association in Britain, and the launching of the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses—the first professional organisation of nurses in the United States and Canada."

In the leading paper Isabel Hampton, Superintendent of Nurses and Principal of the Training School, the Johns Hopkins Hospital, points the way on high professional ideals—in "Educational Standards of Nurses"—and her sense of humour peeps in when she writes: "After asking me to recommend a head nurse for a hospital and enumerating at length the qualities she must possess to be successful, he concludes with the words—'in short we require an intelligent saint!'"

In "The Relation of Training Schools to Hospitals" by Miss L. L. Dock, Assistant Superintendent of Nurses, the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, a classic contribution is added to these pages.

Then in "Sick Nursing and Health Nursing" we find the irrefutable genius of our own Florence Nightingale.

Many papers and discussions recorded are of a very high ethical standard, representative of every society interested in the welfare of the sick at that time, showing in the very earnest collaborations great diversity of interest.

In closing we turn to the final paragraph of Miss Lucile Petry's foreword—"History as exemplified in this volume brings us two challenges; What progress have we made in the more than fifty years since these wise thoughts were expressed? Fifty years from now, will the generation that succeeds us look back on what we have said and done and find us worthy of the respect we give to those who contributed the papers in this volume?"

To the first challenge we would say of our own country, we may review with pride the thirty years triumphant battle against the seekers of unrivalled power—that won State Registration for Nurses and the consequent professional advance that ensued during the following thirty years.

Nurses will be the richer for the knowledge to be gained from within these pages, which unfold in remarkable detail, the foundation upon which modern nursing has evolved during the past half century.

This presentation volume we especially value in our profound admiration of the illustrious donor—Lavinia L. Dock.

A.S.B.

\* Acquired as *The Nursing Record* in 1888.

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