EDITORIAL COMMENT

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FINAL SERVICES FOR FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

Florence Nightingale’s body was laid to rest on Saturday, August 20, in the churchyard at East Wellow, Hampshire. As had been anticipated, interment in Westminster Abbey had been offered and was refused by her executors.

The day of burial was a rainy one. No announcement had been made as to when the last journey would take place, so there was no large assemblage of spectators when, at ten in the morning, the coffin, covered with a white India shawl, such as Miss Nightingale constantly wore in late years, was borne from her simple London home to Waterloo station.

As the unpretentious procession passed Buckingham Palace and Wellington Barracks, the guards turned out and the sentries presented arms. The bearers who took the coffin from the hearse to the train and who accompanied it to Romsey were guards.

There is a fine old abbey at Romsey,—its flags were at half mast, and its bells were tolled as the little procession took its way through the town and country-side so familiar to Florence Nightingale’s youth, making a détour through the grounds of her early home, Embly Park.

At the wicket gate of the church the procession was augmented by a company of tenants and employees of the estate, and in the church porch was waiting one of Miss Nightingale’s patients of the Scutari Hospital, John Kneller, who rose feebly.

The simple church service was read, and three hymns were sung,—“The Son of God Goes Forth to War,” “On the Resurrection Morning,” and “Now the Laborer’s Task Is O’er.” After this, the coffin was lowered into the Nightingale tomb which was lined with evergreens.

FLORAL TRIBUTES

The accompanying illustrations, for which we are indebted to the thoughtfulness of Miss Breay, of the British Journal of Nursing, will
give some idea of the wealth of flowers which were sent in an effort to show the love and appreciation of the family, friends, rulers, ambassadors, nurses, nursing associations, doctors, soldiers, sailors, suffragists, and the common people. American nurses will feel glad that they were represented in the gift of two of the wreaths, those of the International Council of Nurses, and of the American Federation of Nurses.

A wreath of heather was sent by a child of seven, Stella Forster, with the message, "Please may my wreath be put with the other flowers. I picked the heather and made it myself, because I love her so." Surely that little offering represents the spirit of all the givers, high and low.

MEMORIAL SERVICES AT ST. PAUL'S

On the same day as the funeral, a memorial service was held at St. Paul's Cathedral, London, and the great edifice was filled by an audience representing almost every walk in life, nurses, soldiers, and veterans being present in large numbers.

The service opened with Chopin's Funeral March, followed by "The Son of God Goes Forth to War," sung by men's voices. The psalms read were the 5th, 23d, and 27th; the lesson was from 1st Corinthians xv. The order for the burial of the dead was used, followed by the Dead March in Saul, and the Liturgy of St. Chrysostom. The final hymn was "The King of Love My Shepherd Is."

TRIBUTES FROM THE PRESS

Many of our training schools might like to secure for their libraries some of the remarkable tributes that have been paid to Miss Nightingale in the press of the world during the last few weeks. We append a brief list of those that have come to our notice: British Journal of Nursing, August 27; Nursing Times (published by Macmillans), August 20 and 27; London Daily Mail, August 20; London Spectator, August 20; London Times, August 15, editorial and special memoir; London Times, August 22, account of the funeral; Montreal Star, August 15, editorial and special memoir; New York Evening Post, August 15, editorial and special memoir; Article in Votes for Women, August 19 (4 Clements Inn, London, W.)

MEMORIAL TO ISABEL HAMPTON ROBB

The present issue of the Journal has been fittingly dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Robb by the Journal directors, and it is not unsuitable that our thoughts should be turned to Miss Nightingale and Mrs.
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The Path to the Church Porch bordered with Wreaths.
Robb at the same time, for they knew and honored each other; one was a pioneer for her whole profession, the other for a portion of it. Several articles on Miss Nightingale, written by those of our number who knew her, have been promised us and will appear in the near future.

LAX MANAGEMENT

To the boards of managers of public institutions is entrusted a twofold responsibility, that to the persons directly under their care and that to the community of which they are a part. Two instances of shocking neglect, involving principles which undermine both individual and community morals, have recently been brought to our notice.

First, from a western city, comes a letter from an ex-officer in a reform school for girls which tells its own story:

The fact that you've been interested in the venereal situation at G—— makes me wish to tell you of the situation in M——.

The superintendent of the school told me that all venereal cases were segregated. This is absolutely without fact to support it. The cottage to which I was assigned was the place in which the venereal clinic is held every two weeks. There are seventeen known cases of syphilis—but there is no effort made to discover if more exist. These are in varying stages, and yet with all the horrible discharge there is no segregation. The clothes of these girls are washed with the other girls'. They eat with the others, and their dishes are not marked or washed alone. They use any glass handy. They drink out of a common dipper, and the only attempt at segregation is their toilet and bath: in some instances this has not been observed. One girl who had been diseased long enough to have a large crop of venereal warts was not known (?) to be diseased until she began to break out.

The two basement monitors—whose duty it is to look after toilets and to see that all girls bathe—are both syphilitic! They wash the handkerchiefs and the stockings for the entire family! They work at almost everything that the others do. There is absolutely no attention paid to gonorrhrea and nobody—I asked the physician—knows how many gonorrhrea patients are in the home. Gonorrhrea girls do the cooking and the laundry—even of the "officers."

I felt all of us had every chance to get one or both of the diseases. I separated the girls' clothes and compelled the syphilities to eat in their rooms, and to drink out of their own cups, but I was not permitted to isolate them or establish any system of disinfecting clothing. In one instance a syphilitic patient was discharged one week and the next week her drawers, night-dresses, vests, undershirts, and uniforms were given out to other girls.

There is no nurse at the school and the "manager" of the cottage is expected to assist with all clinic girls every two weeks. When venereal warts are removed, you are expected to hold parts without rubber gloves—"scarey," isn't it, where one drop of that stuff would "fix" forever? It was too scarey for me—especially with gonorrhrea spoken of as if it were catarrh. "Oh, I guess 80 per cent. have it," says the superintendent,—and absolutely nothing being done.
If such conditions exist in one school for wayward girls,—what of the others? Here is work for our public health committees, here is work for each of us who should be interested as a woman, a citizen, and a nurse. Evidently these schools need investigating as badly as do the almshouses. Club women should be interested, and boards of managers enlightened wherever such menace to the health of the nation exists.

The second example of indifference to the common good comes even nearer home. In a public hospital in an eastern state a superintendent of nurses of high character and ability has resigned after a hopeless effort to prevent a wrong to her profession. She says of her experience:

Our board wanted to lower the moral standard by giving the diploma to a girl who had admitted doing disreputable things and had resigned. They told her she might reconsider her resignation and appear before them (she had refused to do so when I gave her the chance). They thought because she was nearly through her course she should have her diploma. I asked them if she was the kind of woman they wanted to send into people’s homes. One of the doctors on the board said: “Let the families look out for themselves.” He added further that he thought “if she had been so slick as to get so nearly through without being caught she ought to have a diploma for her duplicity.” I told them I would not sign her diploma. They let it run along from January until the last of June, then the secretary asked me to sign it and send it to him. I told him I would not sign it. About a week later they held their annual meeting and appointed me for another year. Two days later a committee waited on me to sign that diploma. I would not do so, but resigned and left the place. I told them I would deserve to have my own diploma taken from me if I did such a thing. They said they would take the responsibility, but they cannot be responsible for what I do. The hospital is supported entirely by state appropriation, and the trustees are appointed by the governor. The secretary of the board, when I reported the matter to him, said he did not know as it was enough to forfeit her diploma, and he referred to another hospital, which he told me about, where one of the nurses became involved in a scandal with a prominent man, son of one of the board ladies. She had midnight operations and they got her into another hospital. He said he had been told by a doctor who got his information from other doctors and superintendents that half the women that graduate from training schools were immoral women.

What can we do to keep our ranks undefiled if trustees of hospitals deliberately graduate immoral women?

One thing can be done. The example of the woman who resigned can be followed. The exact situation in that hospital should be made known to every applicant for the office she has relinquished, and we believe no self-respecting upright woman with the good of her profession at heart will follow her. It ought to be impossible for those trustees to secure a superintendent of principle while their own standards are so low
Editorial Comment

This makes the third instance of similar action on the part of boards of managers, each representing a different state, that have come to our knowledge in a comparatively short time. It may become necessary to establish, in connection with the Superintendents' Society, a registry, kept by the secretary, through which the moral status of the management of every hospital and asylum in the country shall be kept, so that before a member accepts a position she may write to the secretary for information.

It would seem that the principles which Mr. Roosevelt is urging to be applied to political offices are equally needed by those managers of institutions who are without a sense of proper moral responsibility. Fortunately our own experience has been to the contrary, and the directors whom we have known have been as quick to recognize and to punish any deviation from the path of right doing on the part of employees as we ourselves could be. It is such things and such people as those described that keep some of our hospitals in disrepute with the public.

Professional Obligation

A hackneyed subject, but one which must be taken up for comment again and again, so long as nurses are human, and busy themselves in their own individual work, forgetting that they owe a helping hand to their associates. The superintendent who runs her own school beautifully, but fails to take part in any of the superintendents' societies, national, state, or local; the head nurse who keeps her ward in excellent running order, but who does not belong to her alumnae association and knows nothing of nursing affairs outside her own institution; the private nurse who is faithful and unselfish in the care of her own patients, but who pursues her path alone, without giving or receiving help; the district nurse who is efficient and helpful in her own sphere, but who cannot be depended upon in any organization work,—all these are missing part of the opportunity and obligation of professional service, and both they themselves, and their work will be the poorer for their failure in the end.

This is the time of year when all organization life begins afresh, new officers are elected, new committees are formed, new programmes are planned. What will be your share in the winter's work? Shall you be a parasite, living complacently on the efforts of others? or an outcast, living aloof from all our vital interests? or a worker? Every call to service, whether it is a request to hold office, to serve on a committee, to write a paper, or to help in a discussion should, if possible, be complied with, for the very request is a recognition of a nurse's own work and a reflected honor to her school. School standards show in the character
of their graduates, some furnish many eager helpful workers, others are never heard from, though those who are arranging meetings may try again and again to find some one to represent them.

For the sake of service to your profession, for your own broader development, for the honor of your school—enter into close relations with the associations which may reasonably claim your support, and do what you are asked to do.

CARE OF MALE PATIENTS

This is one of those perennial problems which appear in our pages, are vigorously discussed for a few months, and then subside, only to reappear after a year or two to be threshed out again. It is inevitable that it should be so, for we are continually adding new workers to our ranks and new readers to our Journal list who have not gone through the controversy in the past and who should make up their minds very clearly on this point which involves a moral as well as a professional question.

Our own point of view, which has been expressed at length before, may be summed up by saying that to perform some unusual service for a sick man in an isolated locality, in an emergency, is very different from making that service a part of the routine training for pupils in the hospital. If a young woman is shown once, during her training, how to catheterize a male patient (and some occasion usually arises when this instruction can be properly given) it is not necessary for her to go through the process again and again in order to know how,—by once showing she is sufficiently prepared to meet the situation.

"T. M. M." makes three strong points in her letter on the subject in the September issue: First, that our pupil nurses should be tenderly guarded from temptation by their superintendents during training; second, that nursing service may be distorted in the minds of some men into a channel of evil thought; third, that in caring for children we do not sufficiently consider the moral injury done them by any needless exposure or examination.

If nurses are to take an earnest and active part in the campaign for moral prophylaxis, one of the first steps is to guard the moral atmosphere of every hospital, that nurses, interns, and patients may leave it with higher standards of thought and conduct, not with sensibilities blunted and ideals lowered. The influence of one good woman will sometimes transform a whole institution from a place where low jokes are permitted to one where each human being is a little better for having sojourned there.
ANOTHER WORKER DISABLED

Sad news reaches us of Miss Augusta J. Robertson, who has been for some years superintendent of Elliot Hospital, Manchester, New Hampshire, that she is the victim of a nervous trouble which has resulted in total blindness, a condition for which the doctors as yet promise no relief. Miss Robertson attended the May meetings in New York and was attacked by this illness soon after her return. Her work in her profession has been done so quietly that only those closely associated with her have realized its value, yet she has been one of the leading spirits in the excellent organization and work of the New Hampshire state association, and one of the deeply interested and loyal supporters of the national associations. The Journal has found her always one of its warmest allies. She is a graduate of the Massachusetts General Hospital and was for a short time superintendent of nurses at St. Luke's, Chicago, but it is with New Hampshire that her name is associated, where she presided over a delightfully home-like little hospital, took keen interest in the farm attached, and had all her pupils sleeping out on the hillside in tents. No one who has been there can imagine the place without her happy presence.

Her many warm friends will hope most earnestly for the restoration of her health and sight.

NEWS FROM MISS DAMER

Miss Damér, we are happy to report, is gaining in general health, though there is not yet the improvement in her eyesight which it is hoped will come in time. With characteristic faithfulness she has been at her post of duty all summer in charge of the children and young girls at Echo Hill Farm.

THE INTER-STATE SECRETARY

Miss McIsaac begins her work in the middle west, appointments for Minnesota and Indiana being reported in the announcements from those states for October. Every nursing association in those localities, no matter how small, and every training school, should endeavor to have a visit from her. She has a sane, practical judgment on all nursing problems and will be most helpful to the perplexed and struggling workers, whom she will be glad to meet. The opportunity of having a visit from a consulting officer of our national societies has never before been ours, and should be made the most of while it is available.
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THE NEW YORK STATE MEETING

Important business, including questions of reorganization, will occupy the New York nurses at their annual meeting, and interesting speakers have promised to present papers. Rochester, the meeting-place, will be in gala attire at the time for its industrial exposition, and another convention is scheduled for the same dates, so that it will be necessary for all nurses who intend coming to secure room well in advance. The superintendents will have a conference with Miss Goodrich on the first day.

CHANGES IN ADDRESS

No one knows (except the subscription clerk) what a vast amount of trouble is saved by the thoughtful subscriber who sends both new and old addresses when requesting that the address on her Journal be changed. To illustrate how many unthoughtful people are on our lists, let us tell the story of a recent day in the business office of the Journal, when it took six hours to locate changes that could have been made in less than half an hour had both addresses been sent. It should be borne in mind that many duplicates of the same name appear on our file and that it requires the greatest care to keep them from confusion. By sending both addresses one may be sure that her magazine will not go astray.

Perhaps this is a good time, too, to say once more that the Journal pages close on the 18th day of each month, and to remind contributors that all material for the Journal, of every sort, should be sent to the editorial office at Rochester; only subscriptions and advertisements belong to the business department at Philadelphia.

ADDRESSES WANTED

There is, at the editorial office, a post card for Miss Lydia Holman which we should be glad to send her had we her address. A contributor who recently sent a paper on The Care of the Insane, signed with her initials only, is also asked to send her name and address to the editor.