A BIO-BIBLIOGRAPHY

OF

Florence Nightingale

compiled by the late
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1963
DAWSONS OF PALL MALL
LONDON

for
THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES
with which is associated
THE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION
LETTER TO SURGEON-MAJOR EVATT

1886


This letter was written in support of the candidature of Surgeon-Major Evatt in the Woolwich election of 1886. Its full text is as follows:

London, June 24th, 1886

My dear Sir,

Strenuously desiring, as we all of us must, that ADMINISTRATION as well as politics should be well represented in Parliament, and that vital matters of social, sanitary, and general interest should find their voice, we could desire no better representative and advocate of these essential matters—matters of life and death—than a man, who, like yourself, unites with almost exhaustless energy and public spirit, sympathy with the wronged and enthusiasm for the Right, a persevering acuteness in unravelling the causes of the Evil and the Good, large and varied experience and practical power, limited only by the nature of the object for which it is exerted.

It is important, beyond measure, that such a man's thoughtful and well-considered opinions and energetic voice should be heard in the House of Commons.

You have my warmest sympathy in your candidature for Woolwich, my best wishes that you should succeed, even less for your own sake than for that of Administration and of England.

Pray, believe me,

Ever your faithful Servant,

Florence Nightingale.

Surgeon-Major G. J. H. Evatt, M.D.

Surgeon-Major Evatt stood as a Liberal and was not elected. In 1910 he contested two further elections (the Fareham Division of Hampshire and Brighton) but was again unsuccessful. Major-General Sir George Joseph Hamilton Evatt, K.C.B., M.D. (1843–1921), played a very prominent part in the reform of the medical and nursing services of the army. In 1884 he read a paper to the Royal United Services Institution on army medical organization in which he appealed for the formation of an Army Medical Corps of officers and men together and for a central military school in London. Nearly all the reforms which he advocated came to pass, the Royal Warrant finally establishing the Royal Army Medical Corps being issued in June 1898, a few years before his retirement. (See Col. W. Johnston’s Roll of the Army Medical Service, No. 6249; Lancet, 1921, ii, 1080; British Medical Journal, 1921, ii, 869; Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, 1921, xxiv, 294.)


Copy: British Museum.

CHOLERA

1892

143. Title: [Concluding paragraphs in] Cholera: what we can do. By George H. De'Ath, Medical Officer of Health for Buckingham. Buckingham: Walford & Son, 1892. 8vo, pp. 18–19.
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The pamphlet consists mainly of advice given by Dr. Ernest Hart (Editor of the British Medical Journal), Sir Andrew Clark, M.D., and the Local Government Board. Mr. Hart is quoted as saying: 'Asiatic cholera was a filth disease... We could drink cholera, and eat cholera, but we could not catch cholera in the sense we catch measles or scarlatina.' He does, however, add the advice: 'Boil your water. Boil your milk.' Sir Andrew Clark wrote: 'As water is one of the chief agents by which choleraic infection is conveyed, it should be scrupulously protected from contamination and boiled if there is any doubt as to its purity.'

A footnote on p. 18 reads: 'These concluding words have been very kindly written for me by Miss Nightingale.' The words in question are quite impassioned. 'Let us fight,' she writes, 'but wisely and considerately, as we are here taught to do, with the arm of cleanliness in earth, air and water, and in our person—for our health and home. No one must fall out of the ranks. Let us fight and not die, but win. The English never know when they are beaten, and therefore they never are beaten... For if the cholera does not come we are winning the day against fever...'

Miss Nightingale certainly had good reason to dread cholera. She had had plenty of experience of the disease during the 1854 epidemic, when she had served as a volunteer at the Middlesex Hospital, and of course in the Crimea. There were more than 20,000 deaths from cholera in England and Wales in 1854 and 14,378 in 1866. The great advances made in hygiene and sanitation in the latter part of the nineteenth century are shown by the fact that there were only 135 deaths from cholera in 1893 and none in 1894.

Dr. George Hanby De'aths (1862-1901), Medical Officer of Health for Buckingham and Coroner for the Winslow Division of N. Bucks., was closely associated with Miss Nightingale and Mr. Frederick Verney in their work on rural hygiene. At Miss Nightingale's instigation he was employed by the Bucks. Technical Education Committee to train ladies as 'Health Missioners'. (See No. 21). There are excellent obituary notices of De'aths in the British Medical Journal, 1901, ii, 155, and Lancet, 1901, ii, 178.

HEALTH AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT 1894


Begins: 'The laws of health can only be efficiently applied when there is cordial co-operation between those who govern and those who are governed.' There follows a brief statement of the laws of health, with some typical Nightingale aphorisms:

'Preventible disease should be looked upon as a social crime.'

'Money would be better spent in maintaining health in infancy and childhood rather than in building hospitals to alleviate or cure disease.'

'It is much cheaper to promote health than to maintain people in sickness.'

The report of the Conference occupies pp. 1–14 and is reprinted from The Bucks. Advertiser and Aylesbury News. The Conference was held at the County Hall, Aylesbury, on Wednesday, October 31, 1894, under the