

Florence Nightingale:
Lady with the Lamp

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Apprehension, uncertainty, waiting, expectation, fear of surprise, do a patient more harm than any exertion.

(qtd. In “ quotes world at war understanding conflict and society”)

Florence Nightingale went to training for nursing in 1849 to Germany from Italy. She fell in love with being a nurse and pleaded with her mother and father to let her work. Although, they were wealthy and she didn't have a reason to work. Her father gave in and granted her an allowance. She brought thirty-eight nurses with her and went to a Scutari hospital in Europe, Turkey, to help them sanitize and cleanse the hospital. About two years later, she took things into her own hands. She made sure her patients were getting the treatment they desired (Crooke 4-10).

Early Life of the Nightingales'-

Florence Nightingale was named after the Italian city of Florence, Italy, where Florence was born. Her mother, Frances Nightingale, was a socially ambitious and wealthy woman. Her father, William Edward Nightingale, was a scholarly and well known man. Nightingale had one older sister, Parthe, and when the family returned to England, the sisters' education was first handled by governesses but soon taken over by their father (*Charlie* 1). Both girls received a vast and more liberal education than many women of their day. This was an early introduction to a competitive world rather than a regular social and domestic one and was a great influence on Florence. As a teenager, Nightingale was surrounded by relatives and friends, taking many family visits to foreign countries.

Florence was called by God while walking the grounds of her family home at Embley Park, Hampshire. He cried out to Florence at age sixteen byword "Save me." (Cooke 10). Although she had a thought in all the social obligations and was quite popular, she felt, as early as seventeen, a desire to do something more productive and useful with her life. In between social engagements she retreated into a private world of dreaming and writing what she later called her "private notes." For the next sixteen years she was tormented by this aspect of opportunity to be known. During these years, she unhappily continued to lead the social life that her mother laid in front of her, but she managed to find the time for personal hours of self-reflection as well as visiting and nursing sick relatives.

It had always been Florence's motto to care for others. Although, she had no intention of having a family of her own. Unlike her family, she was into multiple languages, reading, and helping elders. As she grew older, Florence began to fantasize about the thought of nursing and helping others. Florence brought up training as a nurse to her parents and they automatically denied her (Crooke 11). Her parents had an understanding that Florence would marry a wealthy man so Florence's parents brought her choices of men to marry. Florence without delay rejected every gentleman.

Accomodation in Florence's life-

With a bright idea, Florence decided to sail overseas to Germany in 1849 to the Kaiserswerth Institute. This was a religious community that trained nurses. That's also where Florence officially decided she wanted to become a nurse. But, Parthenope, Florence's sister, was so upset she became ill and Florence decided to sail back home

and nurse her (Crooke 13). Two years later, Parthenope was steady and feeling well. Nightingale's parents eventually gave into her becoming a nurse and her father granted her with an allowance. Florence then sailed back to Germany for three more months in 1851.

Collision of the Scutari Hospital-

The British Army was completely unprepared for the medical aspect of the Crimean War. The Primary Army Base Hospital, Scutari, had terrible medical and sanitary conditions. The hospital lacked many basic supplies such as toothbrushes, basins, towels, and soap. They had absolutely no anesthesia, common drugs, or bandages. Although, they did have raw sewage overflowing into the wards on a regular basis. The hospital was rat-infested and poorly furnished. Many of the wounded laid on floors, bleeding and being neglected (Manning 3). No one working at the hospital was willing to take the challenge or take a stand to fix these problems for the fear of losing their own positions. The effect on the nurses having fear, was it caused diseases such as Cholera and Dysentery. The death rate increased about 42 percent and it was only increasing ("Nursing" 3).

Redefining Nursing the Nightingale Way-

Without hesitation, Nightingale sailed the seas to the Scutari Hospital with thirty-eight other nurses to change the way the hospital was run. Not only did Nightingale bring thirty-eight nurses with her, she brought numberless supplies with her on her journey. Miss Nightingale had a passion for the well being of others instead of her own. You will never hear about Florence being greedy and or self centered.

Nightingale had bought a number of supplies herself before arriving to the Crimean War. Britain was at war with Russia in 1854-1856. As soon as she and the others arrived, soldiers were given personal supplies including bed linens, clean dressing gowns, and eating utensils (“Nursing” 6) (see appendix). Nightingale herself made nightly rounds to make sure patients slept through the night. Florence had started to teach classes on reading and writing to convalescent soldiers (Manning 3-4). The hospital soon started to run smoothly.

As Florence once said “No man, not even a doctor, ever gives any definition of what a nurse should be than this-’devoted and obedient.’ This definition would do just as well for a porter. It might even do for a horse. It will not do (for a nurse).

(qtd. In “ quotes world at war understanding conflict and society”)

Home for Poor Health-

Nightingale was suffering with the effects of both brucellosis and exhaustion. England greeted her arrival in 1856 with big celebrations. Instead of attending them she went home to her family, and then moved back to London (Britannica School 7). Ministers, head of government, authors, reformers, and politicians came to ask Florence for advice. Nightingale’s report of over 1,000 pages to the British War Department brought the formation of the Royal Commission on the health of the Army in 1857. In 1860, Nightingale used donations of about \$222,000 to fund the Nightingale Training School for Nurses at St. Thomas's Hospital in London. By correspondence and constant reading, she made studies of health conditions in India. Another Royal Commission was

appointed in 1857, resulting in the establishment of a Sanitary Department in India in 1868. (Britannica School 8).

“It may seem a strange principle to enunciate as the very first requirement in a Hospital that it should do the sick no harm. It’s quite necessary nevertheless to lay down such a principle.”

(qtd. In “ quotes world at war understanding conflict and society”)

Recognizing Nightingale-

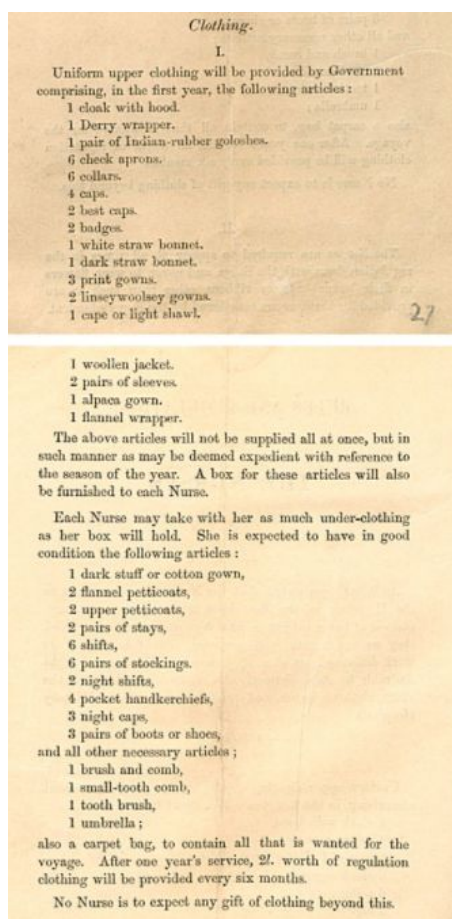
The death rate at the Scutari Hospital soon dropped to 2.2 percent within six months. It took officially fifty years before changes were fully implemented. In the process, Nightingale and her fellow nurses redefined what the term “nursing” meant. Nursing was now presented as the *“Dictatorship of Woman.”* (Manning 4)

During 1858, Florence became the first woman admitted to the Royal Statistical Society in London. She developed and wrote protocols and papers on workhouses and midwifery that lead to successful legislation reform. Nightingale wrote and published documents, articles, and books on the topic. Besides her numerous other recognitions, she received the Order of Merit in 1902. She was the first woman to receive this honor (Britannica School 3). While on a visit to the front lines, Nightingale had become seriously ill and nearly died. By this time, she had become known, and even Queen Victoria kept an anxious watch on her recovery. She was then urged to go back to England to gain her strength back (Manning 5-6).

Farwell Florence-

After a long life of fighting for what she believes in, she tragically passed away August thirteenth of 1910. While most people know that Nightingale was an enormous influence in the field of nursing, they may not know how much she truly impacted it. Florence Nightingale is considered the founder of modern nursing (RN Central 1). Nightingale is now the reason our hospitals are sanitized and cleansed (Britannica School 10). Florence Nightingale opened the first nursing school in 1860, which was the start of professional education and training in the medical field. Her school, the Nightingale School for Nurses, was a part of St. Thomas' Hospital in London. Then offered the first official training program for nurses so that they could work in hospitals, help the poor, and teach others. The training emphasized the importance of patient home care and taught students how to care for the ill at home and the practice of midwifery.(RN Central 4) Many of the students at the school continued on to be matrons at well known hospitals in England, as well as went on to proclaim their own training programs throughout the world.

Appendix



This list is part of a booklet given to all the nurses who travelled to Scutari with Florence.

Archives, The National. *Florence Nightingale - The National Archives*. The National Archives, www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/. Accessed 14 Feb. 2018.

Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources-

"Florence Nightingale: Quote on Hospitals." *World at War: Understanding Conflict and Society*,

Florence taught so she could help others and teach them common knowledge. This quote helped me by explaining how she taught the soldiers how to read and write.

ABC-CLIO, 2017, worldatwar.abc-clio.com/Search/Display/788304. Accessed 13 Dec. 2017.

Once Florence sailed the seas she was determined to make things right at the Scutari Hospital since no other nurses would. This encyclopedia/ quote helped me by explaining Nightingales' determination.

"Florence Nightingale: Quote on Hospital Patients." *World at War: Understanding Conflict and Society*

Nightingale had the most patients and was always calm when it came to her patients. She cared more about her patients than herself. This encyclopedia/ quote helped me by explaining her point of view on her patients.

Society, ABC-CLIO, 2017, worldatwar.abc-clio.com/Search/Display/788307. Accessed 13 Dec. 2017.

Florence was very protective of her patients and always stuck up for them. This encyclopedia/ quote helped me by showing me her pride for her patients.

"Florence Nightingale: Quote on Nurses." *World at War: Understanding Conflict and Society*,

You can thank Nightingale for your hospital being sanitized and not rat-infested. This encyclopedia helped me by informing me with her determination for the Scutari hospital to be cleansed.

ABC-CLIO, 2017, worldatwar.abc-clio.com/Search/Display/788308. Accessed 13 Dec. 2017.

Nightingale was always up for a challenge and always had inspiring words to say. This website/encyclopedia helped my paper by showing me how determined she was to help her patients.

Secondary Sources-

Charlie, Deborah. "Florence Nightingale." *Salem Press Biographical*

Encyclopedia, 2013. EBSCOhost, search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&AuthType=cookie,ip,cpid&custid=s7324964&db=t6o&AN=88807037&site=src_ic-live&scope=site.

Miss Nightingale was the top notch back in 1850 once she got recognized for her outstanding work. This encyclopedia helped me by informing me of her outstanding work.

Cooke, Tim. *Florence Nightingale*. Gareth Stevens Publishing, 2017.

Florence Nightingale was very loyal to her family but had many conflicts. This book helped my paper by making me more aware of her background.

"Florence Nightingale." *Britannica School*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 1 Nov. 2017, school.eb.com/levels/middle/article/Florence-Nightingale/276097. Accessed 11 Dec. 2017.

Nightingale was determined to make the hospital sanitized and clean. She always wanted the best for her patients. This encyclopedia helped me by explaining how she took charge.

Florence Nightingale: Her Legacy for 21st Century Nursing - INurseCoach.

inursecoach.com/. Accessed 11 Dec. 2017.

Nightingale is the reason we now have sanitized hospitals. This encyclopedia helped me by explaining her legacy and how she was recognized.

Manning, Kenneth R. "Nightingale, Florence." *World Book Student*, World Book, 2017,

www.worldbookonline.com/student/article?id=ar39148

"Nursing." *Gale Encyclopedia of World History: War*, Gale, 2009.

Nightingale was so unique, she even learned five languages. This encyclopedia helped me by learning more about her background all the way until her legacy.

Selanders, Louise. "Florence Nightingale | Biography & Facts." *Encyclopedia Britannica*,

Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.,

www.britannica.com/biography/Florence-Nightingale.

Accessed 13 Dec. 2017.

Nightingale is known for sanitizing hospitals and taking charge, but she's also known for writing books. This encyclopedia helped me by learning more about her other than her taking action.

The Impact of Florence Nightingale on Nursing.

http://www.rncentral.com/nursing-library/the_impact_of_florence_nightingale_on_nursing/. Accessed 13 Feb. 2018.

Miss Nightingale was known as “Lady With the Lamp”. She always went around to check on her patients at night to make sure they were satisfied. This encyclopedia helped me by explaining more of her legacy and Florence being well known.