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Canada

Nurses after Nightingale: the next generation of nurses facing war and epidemics



Nurses after Nightingale: The next Generation of Nursing Leaders

by Lynn McDonald

Commonwealth Nurses and
Midwives Federation

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Florence Nightingale (1820-1910)

Her school the Nightingale School, at St Thomas' Hospital, London, opened 1860

(funded by donations during the Crimean War)

Her *Notes on Nursing: What It Is and What It Is*

Not, first published in 1860 (many editions)

Her *Notes on Hospitals* 1863 (3rd ed.), earlier version in 1859 and 1860

Nurses Nightingale mentored

- The first three all trained at her school:
- Margaret A. Fellowes (1846-1931)
- Dorothy F. Solly (c1848-93)
- Georgina Franklin (c1865-?)
- Fellowes and Solly were military nurses
- Franklin nursed in an India plague hospital and in Hong Kong

The new generation of nurses

- These 3 (and many others) show how far nursing had gone in technical expertise required, responsibility and relations with doctors
- When Nightingale started her school, pupils had allowed to take patient's temperature (a task for doctors and student doctors), not trusted..... All that changed

Fellowes – Transvaal and Egypt

- Fellowes, daughter and wife of a general,
- Started nurse training in 1879, when widowed
- In 1881 to Transvaal with Sir F. Roberts -- Nightingale did introductions, ordered supplies to take and advised on outfit... instruments.....conscious of what can go wrong from her own Crimean War (1854-56) experiences

Fellowes – Transvaal War

- Nightingale called her my “Cape of Good Hope”
- Said she was “born to be a military hospital reformer”
- Fellowes reported back to Nightingale on numerous defects, drunken orderlies, neglect of patients
- Nightingale worked on getting an inquiry going, and doctors who would testify

Fellowes

- Nightingale used her reports, but warned Fellowes about appealing to headquarters over the local authorities
- The war over quickly, Fellowes went back at St Thomas' as a ward sister
- Volunteered again for the Egypt campaign of 1882, offered to go to Malta, Cyprus, wherever, in fact sent to Alexandria, Egypt

Egyptian campaign

- Suez Canal – Britain wanted to protect it as the best access to India
- Took over Egypt after a brief campaign
- General Wolesley predicted would be out in weeks; they were; but cholera and other diseases hit, so nurses needed again (much back and forth to England)
- Poor administration – nurses in the wrong place

Egyptian campaign

- National Aid Society for the Sick and Wounded in War, a voluntary organization, forerunner to the British Red Cross, active in the Egyptian campaign
- Providing supplies and assisting soldiers, improving conditions
- Nightingale liaised with it

Fellowes post-war

- Back to St Thomas' and nursing, then married a leading doctor, Makins, a “medical knight”
- As Lady Makins continued to play a supportive role in nursing
- Nursed again in the First world War

Dorothy F. Solly

- Daughter of a St Thomas' surgeon, a “gentlewoman”
- Trained at St Thomas', became ward sister, then to the Transvaal or First Boer War
- Next nursed in the Egyptian campaign of 1882
- Nightingale mentored her, assisted her with (failed) attempts to become a matron

Solly in Egypt

- Reported back to Nightingale on conditions
- Sybil Airy another English nurse there, reported on the nursing and relations with doctors
- Thomas Dyke Acland a doctor at another Cairo hospital; son of Henry Dyke Acland, Regius Professor of Medicine, Oxford, and a Nightingale friend (and supporter of “state medicine” or public health measures)

Egyptian hospitals

- Airy-Acland relations collegial, both St Thomas' trained and oriented, tried to re-create its standards
- Shows considerable advance in nurse-doctor relations from the early years
- Airy went back to Egypt to nurse, 1884-
- In 1887 in shipwreck returning, but rescued on Consica

Georgina Franklin

- Started training at St Thomas' in 1893, age 28, an ordinary “nurse” (not a “special”)
- Nursed next at St Mary's, Paddington
- (apparently) next a nurse in Rawal Pindi, then back to U.K.
- In 1897 to India as a plague nurse; FN assisted with the appointment and practical arrangements

Franklin in India

- Franklin and Nurse Ruddock “two of our very best nurses” and “the first to nurse the plague in Bombay presidency” (Mumbai)
- Nightingale impressed with her on meeting: “the deepest, quietest, most striking person I have seen from our present staff, and so pretty; she understands training better than all our sisters but one,” she trained night staff

Indian culture

- Franklin “cautiously determined to go to the plague,” met with doctors, knew what to expect
- Nightingale concerned about knowledge of language and culture
- Gave her a Dictionary of Medicine and 3 volumes on Indian religion and culture

India

- “What are they to do about the language” I cannot conceive anything more irritating to a plague case than to have a nurse ignorant of their habits, their language, their religion, everything” - Nightingale
- Franklin an astute letter writer, sent details on their conditions, the plague camp, how they were treated, relations with doctors

To the plague hospital

- Franklin: well treated from arrival at Pune; doctor met them, took to the “best hotel” (sharp contrast with nurses in the Crimean War)
- Entertained, taken to dinner, tours, sites
- Their bungalow 5 minute walk from camp
- Bodies cremated, at a distance (again a contrast with previous practice)

Plague

- Bubonic plague a serious killer; Dr W. Haffkine the expert, in Bombay for British government
- Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1902 for vaccines against plague and cholera
- Haffkine “the great inoculator”

Plague prevention - vaccination

- Franklin reported on success of Haffkine's plague vaccine: "Statistics prove the treatment to be of use as out of a school of 30 boys, the one who would not be injected had plague and died, the 29 inoculated escaping. This is one instance out of many" (1897 letter)
- Described their own inoculation (same method)

Franklin – recollections, the record

- Franklin published her “Reflections” of Nightingale, and letters, in 1910 (after Nightingale’s death) in the *Nursing Mirror*, with pen name, “Lamorna”
- Nightingale’s (other) correspondence shows great confidence in her, a “gentlewoman” in fact, though not by birth.... She an example to the ward sister

Franklin

- After India, nursing sister at the Government Hospital, Hong Kong
- In 1901, wanted to become an army nurse, but the age limit was 35 (she was 37)

Nurses after Nightingale

- Next two nursing leaders not known to Nightingale – later, but both connected
- Mary Eugenie Hibbard (1856-1946) Canadian born, American nurse, trained in Canada, St Catharines, Ontario (first school)
- Superintendent at Grace Hospital, Detroit, founded its nurse training school in 1889
- In American Association of Superintendents of Nursing Schools

Plaque in
honour of Mary
Eugenie Hibbard
(1856-1946) at
the Interoceanic
Canal Museum,
Panama.

Nurse, Patriot, Gentlewoman,
Humanitarian Friend

Nurse, Patriot, Gentlewoman,
Humanitarian, Friend



Hibbard – the background

- Nursed in Boer War, 1899-
- En route, nurses invited to Windsor Castle to meet the Queen
- Nursed on an American hospital ship, the Maine, organized by “Jennie,” Lady Randolph Churchill, an American
- But Hibbard a professional, did not take orders from the untrained “Jennie” (mother of Winston Churchill)

Hibbard to Cuba

- After defeat of Spain, 1899, and departure of the Spanish, went to Cuba, where influential in starting Cuban nursing (previously done by imported Spanish, untrained nuns)
- Hibbard superintendent at Santa Isabel Hospital, Matanzas, and at Hospital No. 1, Havana, then founded 7 nursing schools, the first started by a nurse trained at Bellevue

Hibbard in Cuba

Hibbard published on Cuban nursing in the *American Journal of Nursing*; organized district nursing and tubercular nursing (Boston model)

Member of the National Association of Nurses in the Republic of Cuba and the International Council of Nurses

Gave paper at its meetings in Buffalo in 1901

Rising professionalism

Hibbard in London, 1909

- Conference of International Congress of Nursing; Hibbard wanted to meet Nightingale
- Did not, but invited to her home, received by the secretary of the Nightingale Fund Council, Henry Bonham Carter (Nightingale's cousin), Hibbard gave him a Spanish ace mantilla for Nightingale

Kofoworola Abeni Pratt (c1910-93)

- Mrs Pratt, like Nightingale, not allowed to nurse at first, became a teacher, married (father and husband supportive of career), 2 children
- Trained in London at the Nightingale School, beginning 1946, also took “sisters course” of RCN, nursed in London until 1950
- Returned to Nigeria, where a major leader



Pratt – overcoming discrimination

- Nursing in London when the National Health Service opened, so first black nurse (or in first cohort) of black nurses in NHS
- Experienced (some) discrimination from patients in London
- Further discrimination when back in Nigeria, in takeover of nursing from white English ex-pat nurses

In Nigeria

- Pratt had the paper qualifications for promotion, was selected, but when doctor saw that she was a black Nigerian, preferred a less competent white nurse
- The (English) matron supported Pratt; she got the position, proved herself and the doctor admitted that she had

Pratt – numerous firsts

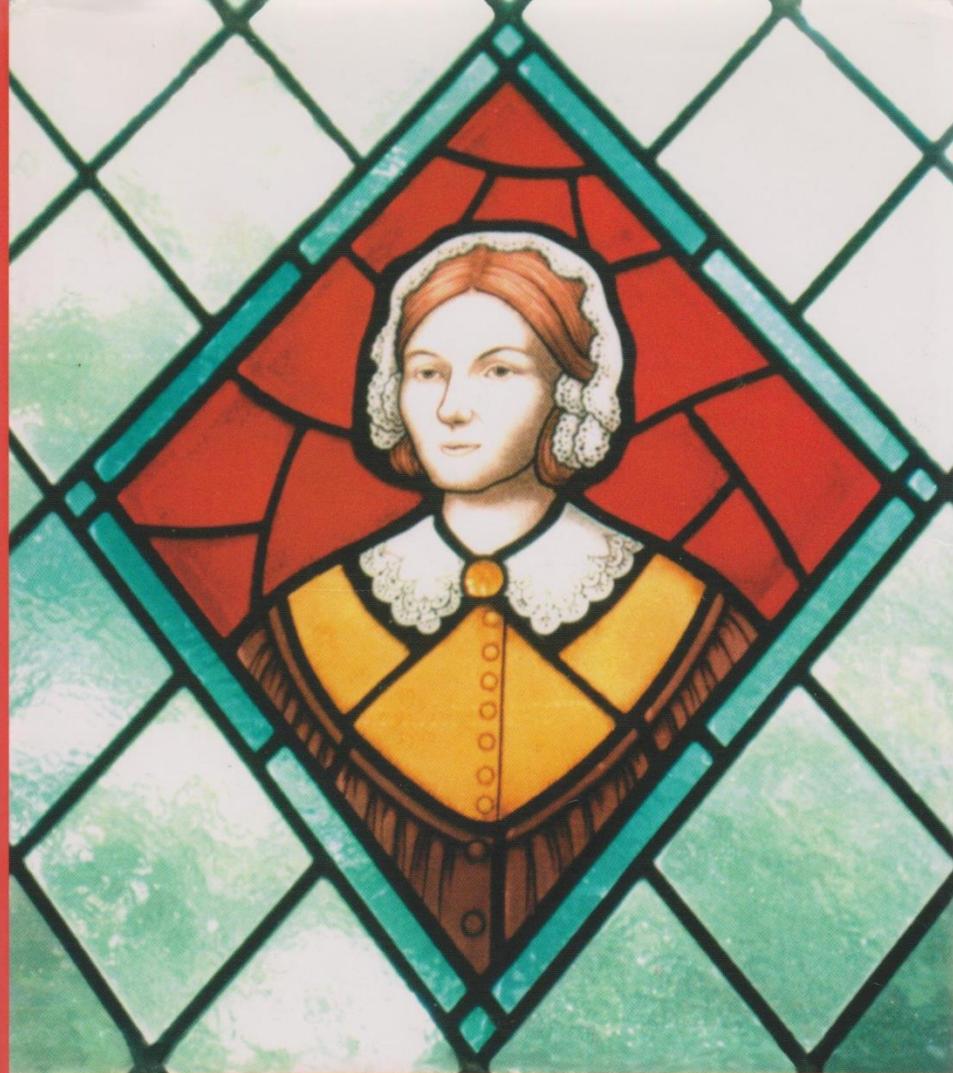
- First Nigerian matron of nursing, University Hospital, Ibadan
- First Nigerian chief nursing officer of Nigeria
- Made FRCN
- Third vice-president of the ICN
- Given honorary doctorate
- Published, only a little, on nursing

Altogether

- These a selection – many more models!
- 2020 is the 200th anniversary of Nightingale's birth, a time to celebrate her vision and work, and the nurses who carried on
- Common vision, courage, devotion, excellence, profession building

**A stained[glass
window in
Chautauqua,
New York**

**This volume
reports her
pioneering
study of maternal
mortality post-
childbirth**



**FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE ON WOMEN,
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EDITOR**

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Of Florence
Nightingale, 16 vols.
2001-12**

**Nightingale's life &
work, in war, peace,
nursing, hospital
reform, mentoring,
public health, India
environment**



**Nightingale statue at
The Glasgow Royal
Infirmary (before the
Collected Works)**





Nightingale statue re-located to the Main Lobby of the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, with a relief of Joseph Lister, who pioneered anti-septic surgery at Glasgow



FROM 1851 TO 1859
SURGEON TO THIS INFIRMARY
WHERE HE ORIGINATED THE ANTISEPTIC
SYSTEM OF SURGICAL TREATMENT
RESIGNED TO THE INFIRMARY
BY THE HON AND PRESENT MEMBERS
OF THE STAFF
1859