

only an embodiment of recent years. In 1798, ninety-nine years ago, there was a vigorous attempt made, but it was only a spasmodic one. Dr. Valentine Seaman gave a course of regular instructions to the nurses of New York Hospital; and under his portrait which adorns its walls we find the words: "In 1798 he organized in New York Hospital the first regular training school for nurses, from which other schools have since been established, extending their blessings throughout the community."

Perhaps the most notable effort in the early decades, was that of the young German clergyman, Pastor Fleidner, in the year 1822. The parish to which he was appointed was very poor; and he had only been inducted a few weeks when his church was sold over his head for the debt of one of its members. But his German pluck and energy kept him to the front. He travelled on foot through Belgium, the Rhine provinces and England, to solicit money with which to buy back his church. Not only did he succeed, but he also accomplished another object which was very near to his heart. While on his long journey he made a special study of asylum and prison and hospital management, to carry back to his home at Kaiserworth. When he arrived there he had not only the gold he required to redeem his church, but he brought back also an intimate knowledge of the best methods known up to that date to alleviate human suffering.

In 1833, in a bright little summer-house in his garden, Pastor Fleidner founded the first regular nurses' training-school in the world. Two women at first agreed to devote their lives to the new profession; but the work went on; and in 1836 a new building had to be provided to meet the growing need.

In 1886, when the semi-centennial was celebrated, there were sixty such buildings and six thousand women, owing their allegiance and inspiration to the little school founded fifty years before at Kaiserworth.

Turning to Britain, let us remember that all that has been done, to impress upon the minds of the public the necessity and value of thorough nursing, has been accomplished during the Victorian era. It is only during the reign of our beloved Queen that schools for the education and training of nurses have been established; and it is only during her reign that nursing has been lifted out of the invidious position that it had always occupied, and elevated to the dignity of a true profession.

The origin of the first training school in England is well worthy of remembering; and it will ever be associated with the name of that queen of women, Florence Nightingale.