

walked to the door, and quietly ordered them to burst it open and the stores to be distributed!

It was, perhaps, in the operating-room that Florence Nightingale showed in its highest form the mastery she obtained over the spirits of her soldier patients. This fragile English lady was known to toil for twenty hours continuously amid her band of nurses and her miles of patients.

The miracle wrought by this band of nurses—this entrance of woman into the hell of British hospitals in the East—is capable of being expressed in cold statistics. They found the death-rate in the great hospital at Scrutari at 42 per cent.; they brought it down to 2 per cent.!

The Geneva Convention was held within ten years of Florence Nightingale's labors in the East, and now its red cross, gleaming on every modern battlefield since, is, in a sense, Florence Nightingale's monument.

All Europe rang with Miss Nightingale's praise at the close of the Crimean war, and all England was keenly excited to give her a triumphant reception on her return. With characteristic modesty, she evaded all demonstrations (though she could not but obey the summons to Windsor when the late Queen Victoria gave her the Cross of St. George), and, so long as health remained, she continued to devote herself to her self-imposed task of succoring the sick.

In December, 1907, it was announced that the King had been graciously pleased to confer on her the Order of Merit. She was the first woman to receive this eminent order, an order which includes only those who by signal achievement raise themselves to the very head of the class to which they belong.

LONGFELLOW'S TRIBUTE.

[It was the practice of Florence Nightingale to pay a last visit to the wards of the military hospital in the Crimea after the doctors and the other nurses had retired for the night. Bearing a light in her hand, she passed from bed to bed and from ward to ward, until she became known as "the Lady with the Lamp."] This led Longfellow to liken her to St. Filomena, whose emblems were a lamp, a palm, a lily and a spear. He wrote: