Florence Nightingale: The Lady with the Lamp

“Were there none who were discontented with what they have, the world would never reach anything better.”

“I attribute my success to this - I never gave or took any excuse.”

From the Florence Nightingale Museum,
St. Thomas Hospital,
London, England

Florence Nightingale (b. May 12, 1820, d. August 13, 1910) became known for her work in caring for casualties during the Crimean War and her visionary advancement for the nursing profession. Despite initial reluctance by army doctors, the introduction of female nurses to military hospitals during the war was an outstanding success. In gratitude for Nightingale’s hard work, a public funding drive was organized in England in November 1855 to enable Nightingale to continue her reform of nursing in Britain’s public hospitals.

Nightingale’s Greatest Achievements

- Helped achieve professional respectability for women nurses.
- Established the Nightingale Training School for Nurses at London’s St. Thomas Hospital in 1860. Once trained, the nurse went to staff hospitals in Britain and abroad and to establish nursing training schools based on the Nightingale model.
- Nightingale’s best known work, *Notes on Nursing*, was published in 1860. It laid down the principles of nursing: careful observation and sensitivity to the patient’s needs. It has been translated into 11 foreign languages and is still in print today.
- Her observation that infection spread in dirty and poorly ventilated places led to improvements in hygiene and healthier living and working environments.
- Nightingale supported the development of district nursing in Liverpool and many nightingale trained nurses became pioneers in this field.