

(FLORENCE) NIGHTINGALE PAPERS

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Correspondence and papers written by Florence Nightingale (1820-1910) to Annie Machin (fl. 1873-1879). 1873-1879.

The letters to her friend and pupil, Annie Machin, describe her concerns about the new Montreal hospital including the selection of trained nurses for it. These letters and other items in the collection are enumerated on another page.

Extent: 25 items, some with envelopes which lack stamps. 1 box
2.5 inches

Given to the Library by Associated Medical Services, December 1985.

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Biographical Sketch, 1873-1879

This series of twenty autographed letters was written by Florence Nightingale to her friend and pupil, Annie Machin, between 1873 and 1879 after Florence Nightingale had gone "out of office" in 1872, as she described it; that is, she no longer worked for the War Office. She was working on literary and mystical writings under the guidance of her friend Benjamin Jowett; continuing her interest in and concern for India by writing about it, talking with and writing to Indian officials; interviewing, counselling, and writing to nurses for hospitals and nurses' training schools. These letters cover the period immediately before, during, and after Annie Machin's sojourn in Montreal, where she had gone to establish a nurses' training school (Nightingale) at the Montreal General Hospital. (In this she was not successful.) They show Florence Nightingale's attention to detail about the hospitals where her nurses would work; her concern for the nurses' well-being, their qualifications and suitability for the work or position and her generosity and kindness to them; and her wit. The letters also contain spiritual advice. In January 1874 her father, William Edward Nightingale, had died so that she spent more time with her mother at Lea Hurst where she wrote some of these letters. She wrote most of the letters, however, at her house at South Street, London.

E. Hajnal

April 1986

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Box 1

LIST OF ITEMS

- 1873, Aug. 21. Florence Nightingale, Lea Hurst, Mattock, Eng., to Miss Machin, Hollingbourne. A.L.S. 2 folders. Describes position, Mistress of Probationers, at St. Thomas's Hospital which sender hopes addressee will get, comments on qualities needed by the woman in that position. With envelope. *
- 1874, Aug. 12. Florence Nightingale, London, to Miss Machin. 1 leaf. Extract, Offered to our dear Miss Machin.
- Aug. 26. Florence Nightingale, London, to Miss Machin. A.L.S. Folder. 3 p. Advises addressee to have plans for hospital in Montreal sent to her so that sender and Mr. Bonham Carter can study them and urges that no nurses go to the hospital until she and Mr. Bonham Carter have seen the planned improvements in accommodation and construction.
- Nov. 30. Florence Nightingale, London, to Miss Machin, London. A.L.S. Folder. 3 p. Asks addressee to pray for and bless sender's work in India. With envelope.
- 1875, Apr. 14. Florence Nightingale, London, to Miss Machin. A.L. Folder. Writes about the necessity for a model hospital in Montreal; the importance of having an accurate ground plan; her reluctance to recommend an architect, but names Alex Graham whose work is known to her.
- Apr. 21. W. Whiteford, London, to H. Bonham Carter. A.L.S. Folder. 3 p. Returns addressee's statement of which sender and Miss Machin approve, asks addressee to get suggestions from Captain Galton so that the plan thus approved may be given to Mr. [Peter] Redpath of Montreal; expresses pleasure that Miss Nightingale is interested in the hospital.
- May 1. Florence Nightingale, London, to Miss Machin, Montreal. A.L.S. 2 folders. 7 p. Has received Captain Galton's opinion, plans, papers, which she is sending to addressee along with letter, and notes about Mr. Whiteford's letter. With one enclosure; lacks Captain Galton's memo, plans, papers.

* All envelopes lack stamps.

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- 1875, May 8. Alexander Graham, London to [Miss Machin]? A.L.S. Folder. 2 p. Will be pleased to call on addressee with plans for proposed new hospital in Montreal that Mr. Whiteford has asked sender to make.
- July 25. Florence Nightingale, Lea Hurst, Cromford, Derby, to Miss Machin, Baden. A.L.S. Folder. 3 p. Is looking forward to sender's visit and regrets not being able to see the other three nurses before they leave for Montreal. With envelope.
- Aug. 24. Florence Nightingale, Lea Hurst, to Miss Machin. Presentation half-titles, The Practice of Medicine. Seventh edition. Vols. 1 and 2. 2 leaves.
- 1876, Apr. 5. Florence Nightingale, London, to Miss Machin, Montreal. A.L.S. Folder. Apologizes for infrequent letters because of illness and business, asks questions about the new hospital, and suggests that addressee report or comment publicly about her work in Montreal. With envelope, dated May 6, 1876.
- May 4. Florence Nightingale, London, to Miss Machin [Montreal] A.L.S. 2 folders. Refers to addressee's letter and comments on nurses who would be qualified and willing to go to Montreal. (mentions Nurse Cross, Nurse Webb, who went; Nurse Wilson and Nurse Styring who also went are not mentioned here).
- July. Florence Nightingale, London, to Miss Machin. Presentation half-title, The Practice of Medicine. Seventh edition. Vol. 1. 1 leaf.
- 1877, Oct. 22. Florence Nightingale, London, to Miss Machin, Montreal. A.L.S. 2 folders. Refers to addressee's difficulties, tells her to do nothing hastily, to do nothing that would impede an independent inquiry into the management of the hospital, and to instruct the other nurses either to stay with addressee or to return to England. With envelope.
- Nov. 7. Florence Nightingale, London, to Miss Machin, Montreal. A.L.S. 5 p. Sympathizes with addressee about Montreal situation and hopes that it has improved; encourages addressee to have faith and sender will consult with Mr. Bonham Carter. With envelope.

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- 1877, Dec. 13. Florence Nightingale, London, to Montreal. A.L.S. 5 p. Thanks addressee and Miss Annie Machin for their letters, and hopes that addressee is convalescing and encourages her in her work. With envelope to Miss Machin.
- 1878, May 2. Florence Nightingale, London, to Miss Machin, Montreal. A.L.S. Folder. Refers to addressee's earlier conversations about volunteering in time of war, and writes that there may soon be this opportunity for her and for the other nurses who have resigned with her. With envelope.
- June 27. Florence Nightingale, London, to Miss Machin, Montreal. A.L.S. 2 folders. 7 p. Writes about the job prospects for addressee at St. Bartholomew's [Hospital] and outlines sender's letter to Sir Sydney Waterlow. With envelope.
- Aug. 21. Florence Nightingale, Lea Hurst, Cromford, Derby, to Miss Machin. A.L.S. Folder. Is thankful that addressee has arrived safely and asks her when she is coming to London.
- Sept. 7. Florence Nightingale Lea Hurst, Cromford, Derby, to Miss Machin. A.L.S. Folder. Answers addressee's questions about St. Bartholomew's, and compares it with London Hospital which also might want a matron.
- Oct. 12. Florence Nightingale, Lea Hurst, to [Miss Machin] A.L.S. Folder. 3 p. Is happy to have received addressee's letter but sorry that addressee will have to forego holiday in order to nurse David.
- Oct. 19. Florence Nightingale, Lea Hurst, to Miss Machin, Lincoln. A.L.S. 2 folders. 5 p. Replies to addressee's letter of Oct. 18, advises her to give as many of the important sisterships as she can to her own nurses and makes some suggestions about the nurses. With envelope.
- Dec. 7. Florence Nightingale, London, to Miss Machin, Lincoln. A.L.S. Folder. 3 p. Expresses pleasure that addressee will begin working at St. Bartholomew's on Jan. 1, and writes Sir Sydney Waterlow's comments for addressee. With envelope.

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- 1878, Dec. 9. Florence Nightingale, London, to Miss Machin, London. A.L.S. Folder. 3 p. Suggests time for addressee's visit which sender will confirm tomorrow by messenger, and mentions Mrs. Clough's invitation to dinner to meet Dr. Moore. With envelope.
- 1879, Feb. 19. Florence Nightingale, [London?] to Miss Machin, London. A.L.S. 2 folders. Refers to conversations with addressee and writes at length about: changing nurses from day to night; the year's training period and the two years' training period; the memorial to Princess Alice; the wish to have news from addressee; suggestion that addressee discuss the plan with the treasurer; sender's concern for one of the Home sisters; and other matters.