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978-1-108-06441-5 - Notes on Hospitals: Being Two Papers Read Before the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science, at Liverpool, in October 1858

Florence Nightingale

Frontmatter

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It is sobering to realise that as recently as the year in which *On the Origin of Species* was published, learned opinion was that diseases such as typhus and cholera were spread by a 'miasma', and suggestions that doctors should wash their hands before examining patients were greeted with mockery by the profession. The Cambridge Library Collection reissues milestone publications in the history of Western medicine as well as studies of other medical traditions. Its coverage ranges from Galen on anatomical procedures to Florence Nightingale's common-sense advice to nurses, and includes early research into genetics and mental health, colonial reports on tropical diseases, documents on public health and military medicine, and publications on spa culture and medicinal plants.

### Notes on Hospitals

Returning from the Crimea, Florence Nightingale (1820–1910) used her experience of army medicine to ameliorate civilian nursing care. She was appalled by the conditions she found, affirming that the first requirement of a hospital was that 'it should do the sick no harm.' Problems such as overcrowding and damp, in addition to lack of ventilation and proper sanitation, contributed to high mortality rates. Nightingale's belief that such suffering was preventable was seen as revolutionary. In 1859 she published her two most influential works, *Notes on Nursing* (also reissued in this series) and *Notes on Hospitals*. This collection contains the two papers she presented to the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science in 1858. Also included, from 1857, is her evidence to the royal commission on the British army's sanitary conditions. Three illustrated articles on hospital design, published in *The Builder* in 1858, form an appendix to the work.

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BEING

TWO PAPERS READ BEFORE THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
FOR THE PROMOTION OF SOCIAL SCIENCE,  
AT LIVERPOOL, IN OCTOBER, 1858.

WITH

EVIDENCE GIVEN TO THE ROYAL COMMISSIONERS  
ON THE STATE OF THE ARMY IN 1857.

BY

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

LONDON :

JOHN W. PARKER AND SON, WEST STRAND.

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## P R E F A C E.

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THE following papers on the Sanitary Condition of Hospitals, and on Defects in the Construction of Hospital Wards, by Miss Nightingale, were read at the Liverpool meeting of the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science, in October, 1858, and are now printed in terms of a resolution of the Association.

The publisher has thought that it would further the objects of the Association if the evidence given by Miss Nightingale before the Royal Commission on the Sanitary State of the Army were reprinted, and he has added it accordingly. That evidence not only contains information of public importance, as regards the army and its hospitals during the late war with Russia, but gives the results of many years' experience with regard to the principles of hospital construction and organization.

In order to make the information on hospital construction as complete as possible, three papers from the *Builder*, of August 28th, and September 11th and 25th, 1858, have been also reprinted, by the kind permission of Mr. George Godwin, who has paid much attention to the subject. They present similar views on the architectural arrangement of hospitals.