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MUSEUM DEDICATED TO FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE IN TURKEY

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nalan Ozhan Elbas

Florence Nightingale who made her place in history is one of the most important people to have grown in England in XIX century. Florence Nightingale, during the Crimean War, asked the British Government to send her to Istanbul (Constantinople) for looking after wounded British Soldiers, and her desire was accepted by the government. She travelled to Istanbul on 21 October 1854 together with thirty eight Roman Catholic and Anglican Sisters. She took care of about 4000 people in a building called, Uskudar (Scutari) Selimiye Barracks that served as a hospital between 1854 and 1856. During this period, Selimiye Barracks North- West Tower was used as a house by Florence Nightingale and her friends (1,2).

Turkish Nurses' Association applied to Turkish Military Authorities in 1954 to change Selimiye Barracks North-West Tower as a museum in the name of Nightingale as a token of appreciation for her services during Crimean War. This application was considered as appropriate by Turkish First Army Command, and in the same year, a room in the tower, in which necessary changes were made to be a museum, was opened for visit. The museum was carpeted in a manner that could be similar to its original, as used in Nightingale's time, original writings and photos were also put up. This museum is visited by the representatives of Turkish Nurses' Association every year on 12th of May since 1954.

During a gathering in Istanbul on 29 August 1955, The Executive Board of ICN visited the museum, and gave an appreciation certificate to the President of Turkish Nurses' Association. After XVIIIth Meeting of ICN in 1985, the museum was visited by a group of nurses under the direction of Dr. Grace Roessler, who is the Coordinator of Continuing Education for Health Professionals at Golden West

College, California, USA. After this visit Dr. Roessler stated the importance of having written a document and let ICN know about it. On 27 April 1987, the visit of Mrs. Helga Morrow, who is the Council's Nursing Adviser for Turkey, took place and in the same year, Turkish Nursing Association prepared Turkish and English Brochures for the purpose of making the museum popular. As references in these Brochures, the publications and photos sent by Prof. Irene S. Palmer, who is a Nursing Historian, and Dr. Grace Roessler, were cited (3).

'Turkey is a country that had witnessed the services of world-wide known and famous nursing leader. Being a citizen of a country where an important step was taken makes us, Turkish Nurses, proud. To see you among us at the date of 12 May in this museum will always make us happy'.

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Author : Assoc. Prof. Hacettepe University School of Nursing, Ankara (Turkey) [at the time of writing this article].

VED NURSING TRAINING INSTITUTE At

Dr. Prem Hospital
Bishan Sarup Colony,
Opp. Bus Stand, Panipat - 132103

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Contact:

Dr. Prem Hospital
Ph. No. 30191 (R)
32121 (H)
STD Code : 01742