



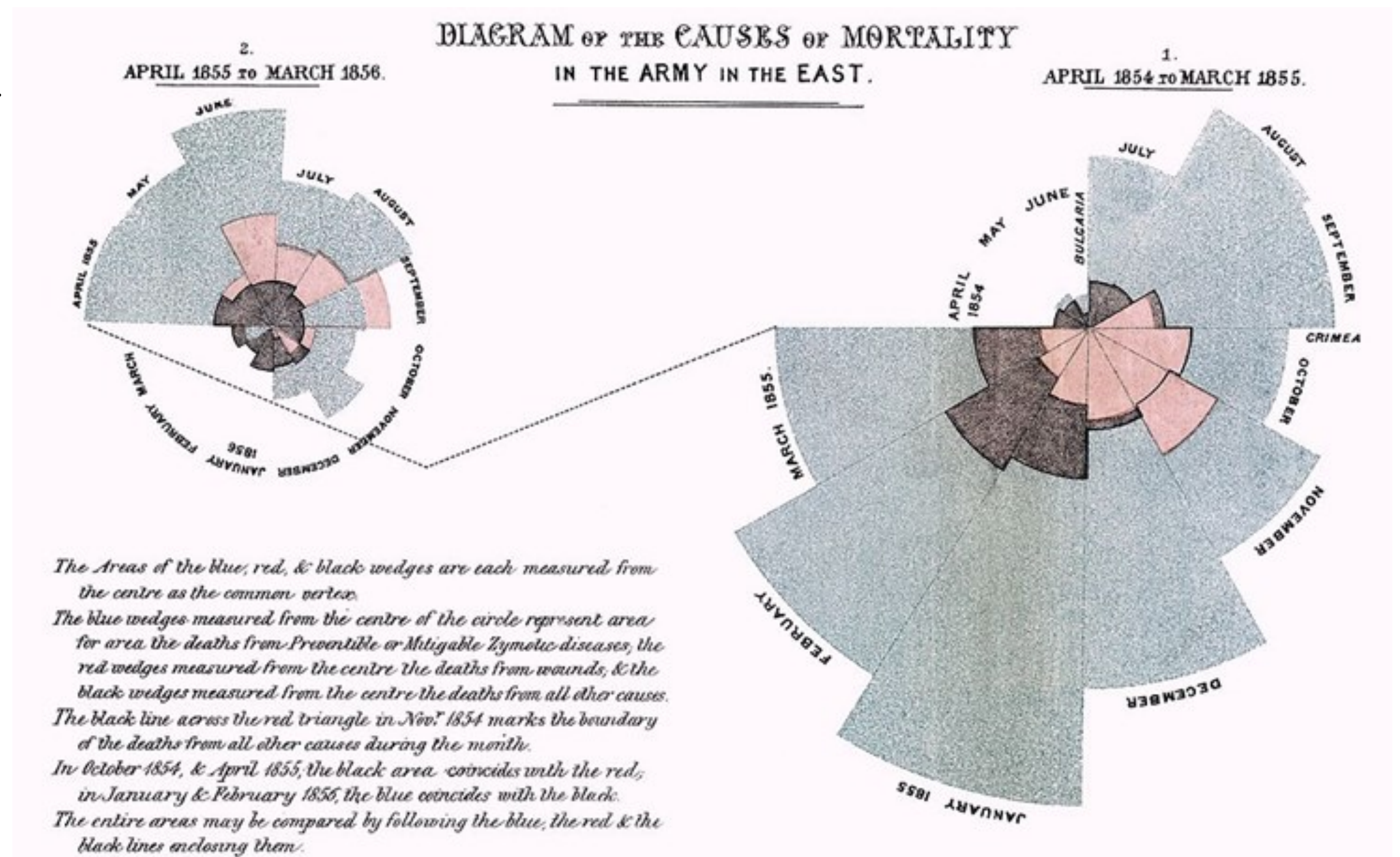
## FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

Florence Nightingale was born on May 12th 1820 in Florence, Italy. In 1837 she felt called by God to devote her life to the service of others, but faced opposition from her wealthy parents; in 1844 she announced her desire to be a nurse but they refused to let her take a position at Salisbury Infirmary. Instead they encouraged her to travel and gain life experience. In 1850 while in Germany she visited Pastor Theodore Fliedner's hospital and school for Deaconesses at Kaiserswerth, and a year later returned for three months of nurse training. By 1853 she had also visited hospitals in Paris and was finally appointed Superintendent of the Establishment for Gentlewomen during Illness at No. 1 Upper Harley Street, London.

In 1854 war was declared and Sidney Herbert, Minister at War, invited her to manage the female nurses in the military hospitals in Turkey. These two years she spent in the Crimea are what most people remember her for, and this is when she gained the nickname 'The Lady with the Lamp'. When visiting the battlefield she noticed that more soldiers were dying from preventable diseases like cholera and typhoid than those who died from battle wounds. She improved hygiene and used her management skills to reorganise the hospital and increase supplies of clean linen and clothing. The sanitary commission arrived six months later and flushed out the sewers and improved ventilation - the death rates dropped dramatically!

When Florence returned to England she tirelessly campaigned for the healthcare of the Army, better sanitation in India and sanitisation in private homes. Florence pioneered graphical representation of statistics and was elected the first female member of the Royal Statistical Society in 1860. She is credited with developing the Nightingale Rose diagram, similar to a pie chart. One of her great achievements was to raise the profile of nursing to an acceptable profession. She established the Nightingale Training School for Nurses at St. Thomas' Hospital in 1860. In the same year her most famous work *Notes on Hospitals* was published. She wrote over 200 other books, pamphlets and reports, many of which were published after her death.

### EXAMPLE OF A ROSE DIAGRAM



After her work in the Crimean War, Florence Nightingale became a highly influential figure in the management of hospital care in the UK. In the second half of the nineteenth century and well into the twentieth, not only were the best nurses trained in the Nightingale School at St Thomas's Hospital (known as 'Nightingale Nurses' - trained in her methods and ingrained with her values) but she even had a ward - the 'Nightingale Ward' - named after her. For a very long time these wards became ubiquitous in any new hospital design. But although these wards came to carry her name, Florence Nightingale was promoting an idea already in evolution. The ward plan with which Miss Nightingale's name became so firmly associated was designed as a long narrow block, of limited height, with tall windows interspersed at regular intervals along both sides to allow cross-ventilation, and with space between each window for a single bed. These long ward blocks could be laid out in a variety of ground-plans, the best being regarded as oriented east/west, and placed far enough apart to allow fresh air to circulate between the blocks, vitiated air to escape, and sunlight to shine in. The roots of this idea evolved over time, and can be traced to the work of little-known doctors and engineers who had been working on the ventilation of ships, schools, sewers and railways carriages. Miss Nightingale's ringing endorsement of them in her famous *Notes on Hospitals* established her association with the design. Several important pages in that work were taken from the architectural journal *The Builder*, whose Editor, George Godwin, was an architect with a strong interest in the role of architecture in improving public health.

Dr. Ruth Richardson

<http://www.kingscollections.org/exhibitions/specialcollections/nightingale-and-hospital-design/florence-nightingale-and-hospital-design>