

## THE NURSES INTERNATIONAL MEMORIAL TO MISS NIGHTINGALE.

On January 16th, 1915, we published an impersonal statement from Miss L. L. Dock on the action taken by her as Hon. Secretary in connection with the proposed Nurses' International Memorial to Miss Nightingale, agreed to by the representatives of twenty-three countries at the International Congress of Nurses held at Cologne in 1912.

In reply to this statement we have received the following communication from Sir Henry A. Miers, F.R.S., Chairman of the Executive Committee, Household and Social Science Department, King's College for Women:—

REPLY FROM SIR HENRY A. MIERS, F.R.S.

The Household and Social Science Department of King's College for Women was inaugurated in October, 1908, and had been in existence four years before the Cologne Congress of the International Council of Nurses held in 1912, at which the proposal to found a Chair of Nursing and Health as an international memorial from the nurses of the world to Miss Nightingale was made.

The opening of a Household and Social Science Department in connection with a College of the University of London is the first attempt in this country to introduce a Science Course of University standard bearing upon matters connected with the organisation of households and the general health of the home and the community. America has long since recognised the need of providing her women with such special courses, and has 24 colleges for this purpose, with many of which this Department has been in close touch, both by personal interchange of visits and literature.

In the words of the prospectus, "the main object of these Courses is to provide a thoroughly scientific education in the principles underlying the whole organisation of home life, the conduct of institutions, and other spheres of civic and social work in which these principles are applicable.

The two following Courses of different lengths have been in existence since 1908:—

1. A Three Years' Course for Students whose general education has reached the standard requisite for entry on University Courses of the usual undergraduate type, and

2. A One Year's Course for (a) Students of graduate standing; (b) Students holding First Class Diplomas in Cookery and Laundry Work.

The Course arranged for Nurses is a combination of the (a) and (b) Courses referred to above, modified to meet their special needs.

The first occasion when this Department came into touch with the Nursing world was in May, 1912, when the Organising Secretary, Miss Julius, spoke at a representative meeting of Secretaries of the Nurses Social Union, on the work being done in this Department. The address aroused

much interest at the time, and the hope was expressed by many present that these Courses might be made available for Nurses in the future.

In June of the following year, through the instrumentality of the Secretary of the Metropolitan Federation of Queen's Nurses who had convened the Meeting in May, 1912, the Secretary had an interview with one of the Trustees of the Florence Nightingale Fund and gave information of the existing Courses in the Department. Further correspondence and interviews between the Trustees and College Authorities followed, and in November 1913 it was agreed that "the work (required by Nurses) was covered to a considerable extent by our existing Courses, and we could arrange to supplement and extend them where necessary in order to provide this special Course."

This being so, the refusal of Bedford College to undertake the institution of Courses already fully provided in another College of the University is easily understood.

The "foundation at King's" referred to in Miss Dock's statement is not in existence. During the last four years the Department has raised over £120,000 for endowment and buildings; it also receives a portion of the Exchequer Grant made to University Colleges, and a maintenance grant of £1,000 a year from the London County Council. The offering of scholarships by the Florence Nightingale Trust does not, of course, add to its endowment.

We are of opinion that this communication in no way controverts Miss Dock's statement of facts.

(1) That an Educational Memorial to Miss Nightingale, proposed by Mrs. Fenwick, as President of the National Council of Trained Nurses, in 1910, was ignored by the Committee associated with the authorities of St. Thomas' Hospital in selecting a National Memorial to her.

(2) That so late as June 17th, 1914, the Principal of Bedford College knew nothing of a rival scheme, as in writing on that date to Miss Dock (who had interviewed her on the subject of the proposed Chair of Nursing in the previous March) she says:—"I have been waiting from day to day for some information which I was expecting to obtain, upon which must depend the question of introducing the subject of Nursing into the College curriculum." By June 25th, 1914, Miss Tuke had received the information for which presumably she was waiting, "that a Course for Nurses is actually being started in connection with one of the Florence Nightingale Memorial funds at King's College for Women's Home Science Department."

(3) That Miss Dock and her colleagues at Teachers' College, New York, were surprised

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)