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EDITORIAL.

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION.

We have to thank Mrs. Maynard Carter, Chairman of the Provisional Committee of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation, for a copy of the Report of the Provisional Committee, which we have read with great interest.

It is now 33 years since the Educational Memorial to Miss Nightingale was proposed and enthusiastically supported at the meeting of the I.C.N. in Cologne in 1912 and, together with the League of Red Cross Societies, actively functioned in London for a few years from 1934—alas! to be bombed out of house and home at the beginning of this destructive war.

A Provisional Committee, as follows, has been appointed, composed of the Hon. Officers: Miss B. G. Alexander, O.B.E., R.R.C., South Africa, President; the Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, G.B.E., C.B., M.V.O., Hon. Treasurer; Mrs. Carter, A.R.R.C. Chairman; Dame Ellen Musson, D.B.E., R.R.C., LL.D. Deputy Hon. Treasurer; Miss Cochrane, Dame Joanna Cruickshank, D.B.E., R.R.C., Miss Duff Grant, R.R.C., Miss Jebb, M.A., and Miss Coode, C.B.E. On this committee three additional members have been invited to serve: Miss Hillyers, O.B.E., Matron of St. Thomas' Hospital; Lt.-Col. Agnes Neill, R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief, Canadian Army Nursing Service; and Miss Bridges, R.R.C., Past Matron, T.A.N.S.

We learn from the Report that the Foundation has been quietly at work during 1944, and is now looking ahead to discern the path which it hopes to take during 1945.

In July, 1939, when the last meeting of the Grand Council was held in London, the Foundation had 21 duly constituted National Committees in Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Great Britain, Greece, Iceland, India, Eire, Japan, Latvia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Poland, South Africa, Sweden and U.S.A. Of these the Provisional Committee has only been able to get into touch with New Zealand, Canada, America, India, South Africa, Eire and Sweden. These committees have been re-formed, or are in the process of re-forming, and meetings are being held.

The opening of a temporary office in 1944 marked the beginning of a new phase of work.

The four years which preceded this were years of marking time, holding the threads of the Foundation together and keeping in touch with the President (Miss B. G. Alexander, S.R.N., South Africa) and the two constituent international bodies—the International

Council of Nurses and the League of Red Cross Societies. Miss Baggallay has been reappointed Secretary (she is now absent at work with U.N.R.R.A. as Chief Consulting Nurse to its Balkan Mission); but the Provisional Committee has met regularly during the past year, appointed sub-committees to consider changes in the Trust Deed and to make recommendations with regard to education.

Its primary purpose is to renew and strengthen contacts with the N.F.N. Memorial Committees of the countries with which communication is possible to ascertain their views with regard to changes in the Trust Deed, the endowment of the Foundation and the future educational policy, in order to prepare for a representative meeting of the Committee of Management at which it is hoped Miss Isabel Stewart (U.S.A.), Miss Mechelynck (Belgium), and Miss Snellman (Finland) may be present.

Excellent committee rooms and offices have been secured at 45, Gloucester Place, Portman Square, W.1. The terms of the tenancy are for five years, with option of breaking at three.

It appears that permanent headquarters for the Foundation should be in London, because of its association with Miss Nightingale, and at the logical conclusions of an informal conference recently held in New York it was unanimously agreed:

"Because of its association with Miss Nightingale, London is the one logical place in which to establish a permanent administrative centre for the F.N.I.F."

"This conference conceives the Administrative Centre or headquarters as housing necessary offices, conferences and reception rooms, a library in which would be stored and catalogued the comprehensive records and resources from many parts of the world and thus made readily available. In this connection the conference would call attention to the needs of non-English-speaking countries."

The International Nursing Courses which were held at Bedford College in conjunction with the Royal College of Nursing ceased on the outbreak of war in 1939. It is not the intention of the Provisional Committee to take steps to revive these Courses; but the decision to do this, or to change the educational policy, will rest with the Grand Council. From various sources has come the request that a wider educational policy may in the future be adopted by the Foundation. Changes have taken place in Nursing education in many countries during the last 20 years.

Miss Lambie, of New Zealand, Miss Hentsch, of the League of Red Cross Societies, and Miss Isabel Stewart, U.S.A., stress the importance of the closest co-operation between the Foundation and other international bodies

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