

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED
THE NURSING RECORD
EDITED BY MRS BEDFORD FENWICK

No. 1,370

SATURDAY, JULY 4, 1914.

Vol. LIII.

EDITORIAL.

NIGHTINGALE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR NURSES.

It is with great pleasure we announce in another column that the Council of the Nightingale Fund propose to offer a limited number of Nightingale Scholarships to nurses who have obtained a certificate after three years' training in some recognized school. These scholarships will entitle the holders to a year's training at the Household and Social Science Department of King's College for Women, in the University of London, now being erected at Campden Hill.

As most nurses know the Nightingale Fund is administered by a Council acting under a trust deed, drawn up in the lifetime of Miss Nightingale. Its original object was pioneer work in nurse training, and the Council rightly hold that this object should remain one of its guiding principles to-day.

The Council state that as in the ordinary training of nurses no pioneer work remains to be done, they have been considering whether there is not still something lacking in nurse-training in which they can lead the way. They have realized that though many women are to-day admirable nurses, the existing training schools in the United Kingdom do not give the instruction in administrative and social work which is required to fit their pupils for the higher posts of Matrons, Superintendents, Inspectors, and so forth, for which a course of training was so brilliantly inaugurated by Lady Superintendents in the United States of America in 1898, and two years ago in Germany. At the same time the demand for qualified persons to fill these posts is constantly increasing.

It is with the object of meeting this demand that the Council of the Nightingale

Fund have decided to offer scholarships at King's College for Women, and they state that the College has met the Council in every way in the preparation of a suitable course.

We cannot conceive of a scheme more calculated to carry out the ideals which Miss Nightingale had so much at heart, and we most cordially congratulate the Council of the Nightingale Fund on realizing both the necessity for such training for certificated nurses, and the appropriateness of the inauguration of a scheme for its provision through the Nightingale Fund. Miss Nightingale's interest in regard to nurses was centred in education, and in the training of nurses to fill the higher posts. She laid down that "to enable nurses to train nurses a special training is required—to *train to train* needs a system," and an admirable one she evolved in her day. When the probationers of the Nightingale School at St. Thomas' Hospital had completed their training they were expected to accept positions in public institutions which might be offered them through the Council, or otherwise. As Sir Edward Cook, in his life of Miss Nightingale states "It was not intended that they should enter upon private nursing. This was an important point in Miss Nightingale's scheme. She had it in her mind from the first that her Training School should in its turn be the means of training elsewhere. She wanted to sow an acorn, which might in course of time produce a forest."

We cannot therefore doubt that the proposed scheme of the Council of the Nightingale Fund, to give scholarships enabling nurses to equip themselves more efficiently to fill administrative posts, is entirely in accordance with the principles which Miss Nightingale had at heart, and we shall watch developments with great interest.

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