

nursing and training school administration for students selected by the Red Cross or State educational bodies of the different countries with which the League is in close co-operation. These courses are, at present, taken at Bedford College for Women, University of London, supplemented by the Education Department of the College of Nursing, which also arranges for any practical experience required, and it is most inspiring to see the enthusiasm of the nurses, the courage with which they face and overcome the difficulties of language and strange environment, and the excellent grasp they obtain of the comprehensive material supplied for their instruction. The daughters of Asia make common cause and cement life-long friendships with the daughters of Europe and America; and in this we see one of the most fruitful results of these scholarships — the furtherance of World Peace, in a closer understanding and in the unity of common purpose.

Machinery exists for exchange of professors between the universities of different countries, but we have yet to formulate a scheme of Exchange Scholarships for nurses. These scholarships can, therefore, only be discussed problematically as regards their programme, their advantages, the difficulties to be encountered.

Such a scholarship should be given to the *graduate* or *trained* nurse, and one of the type already described, so that she can derive full benefit and bring back to her school or field of work the best that can be culled from her fresh experiences. An exchange between two schools of the same grade in different countries, even after the short period of three years' training, would be much to the advantage of the *individual nurses*, though it is doubtful if either could contribute much to her particular field. Naturally, the financing of such an exchange would have to come from an independent fund, and by individual arrangement, and therefore hardly comes within this survey.

Given a suitable candidate she should be allowed to profit by visiting all departments—nursing, administrative, educational—for a sufficient length of time for her to be able to grasp the actual working of each.

The reciprocating Nurse Fellow should be given the same opportunities. Each should be able to make unbiased reports of her experience, and to offer constructive criticism. Both these reports should be in the hands of the authorities of the reciprocating hospitals; otherwise the exchange would not fulfil its purpose.

Such an exchange can only be of value to a school if the representative be of the right type—a woman of good education and social standing, well grounded in the theory and practice of nursing, with adequate experience in administration and a fair working knowledge of the educational programme of nursing schools in her own country. In addition she must possess tact, an open mind, a sense of proportion, and the power to adapt herself to new conditions—all of which will prevent that hypercritical

outlook that is liable to detract very seriously from the value of the interchange and may only serve to rouse antagonism where greater sympathy and understanding are of the first importance.

All this experience is wasted unless the individual chosen possesses sufficient force of character, position and standing in her mother school to secure that her contribution be fully acceptable to that school.

There are difficulties to be encountered in planning and launching such a scheme. Finance is the first problem. It is obvious that for the first three months the Nurse Fellow is of little economic value to the hospital and its nursing service. Regarded as a unit, she may even be the cause of loss from the educational, practical and administrative points of view. Very few nurse training schools possess a budget independent of the hospital finance. Therefore permission for such interchange must

come from hospital authorities. Here one might stress the advantage of a separate budget for nurse training schools. Miss Nightingale was wise before her time when she allocated funds to support a nursing school, but she also formed a Council, reserving to them the right of directing the education of its pupils — the hospital finding the plant, *i.e.*, the equipment and field of experience.

This system would greatly facilitate exchange, but it would still be necessary to obtain the support of the hospital authorities and their sympathetic understanding.

Individuality in nursing developments must be maintained at all costs in the different countries. Each must work according to its own national genius, though the same spirit of service may inspire all alike, and all may be striving after the same ideals.

We must be alive to the danger of standardising too rigidly the nursing programmes of the various countries. Free development along national lines is surely the ideal to be followed.

Again, grave responsibility is assumed in distributing trust moneys. These scholarships are luxuries. The nursing profession is tending to develop in luxury and to lose thereby the creative genius that finds expression when necessity drives. Striving must be stimulated by necessity; easy getting deadens initiative. Luxurious training does not tend to self-denial nor does it foster the spirit of service without which nursing becomes a mere profession and forfeits its high calling as a vocation.

If the consensus of opinion decides that these exchange scholarships between individual nursing schools are essential to new life and fresh vigour, then there should be no insuperable difficulty in obtaining them. Whether they should be given in one or two isolated cases, or be available in large numbers, is another matter to be considered. But never let a question of finance thwart us in the development of what is necessary. Do not, however, be depressed over slow progress, because he who builds slowly builds soundly and makes his foundations sure.



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IN HAPPY MOOD.

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