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EDITED BY MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK, REGISTERED NURSE.

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EDITORIAL.

NIGHTINGALE WEEK.

The Executive Committee of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain at its recent Meeting on April 14th received a Report of the negotiations between its three representatives, the President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss A. Lloyd Still, and Miss E. M. Musson, which appears in brief in another column, which had resulted in harmonious agreement between the International Council of Nurses and the League of Red Cross Societies, who together had drafted The Florence Nightingale International Foundation Scheme, which it was hoped would meet with the approval of the National Organisations of Nurses and of Red Cross Societies, and it is satisfactory to report that an explanatory letter, together with a copy of the Draft Scheme, has already been sent around the world from Headquarters at Geneva, signed by the International President, Mlle. Chaptal, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Chairman of the Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of the I.C.N., and by the Secretary, Miss C. Reimann.

Our Executive Committee decided to organise a "Nightingale Week" from July 4th to 9th, and to invite as guests of our National Council the officers of the I.C.N. and members of its Memorial Committee. These invitations have also been issued, and we very earnestly hope that we may have the pleasure of welcoming many international guests, so that they may consult with us on details on the practical organisation of the Florence Nightingale Foundation—without which interest and help we cannot hope for success.

We are glad to report that Mlle. Chaptal, President of the International Council of Nurses, has accepted an invitation to be present.

It is contemplated that the Florence Nightingale International Foundation should be an autonomous body constituted under English law, and governed by a Grand Council comprising five representatives of the International Council of Nurses, five representatives of the League of Red Cross Societies, and two representatives of the National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of each participating country. The Grand Council will be responsible for the policy of the Foundation, and between its meetings will delegate its powers to a Committee of Management, elected by the Council. It is suggested that the Committee of Management should comprise three representatives of the International Council of Nurses, three representatives of the League of Red Cross Societies, two representatives of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, two representatives of the British Red Cross Society,

one representative of Bedford College and one representative of the College of Nursing.

The organisation of "Nightingale Week" will be placed for early discussion on the Agenda of the Special Meeting of our Grand Council on May 28th, so we hope for many happy suggestions and offers of hospitality. So far the suggestions approved are a Conference on the Constitution of the Draft Scheme and to arouse personal interest in Nightingale cult, by the inauguration of the Foundation at St. Thomas's Hospital, to which is attached the Nightingale Training School for Nurses—where so many unique relics of Miss Nightingale are preserved.

To attend the Ceremonies and Presentation of Certificates to International Students at Bedford College for Women.

To visit the Students' Residential Home at 15, Manchester Square, which is so happily conducted.

To visit our National Council Headquarters, where again a very valuable History Section contains many items of Nightingale interest.

To see the educational work of the College of Nursing—which takes part in the International Students' curriculum.

To visit the "House Beautiful" of the Royal British Nurses' Association—the first organisation of Trained Nurses in the world.

To pay a visit of homage to the grave of Miss Nightingale at East Wellow, and, by kind permission of Mr. J. J. Crosfield, to see Embley Park, that lovely home of Florence Nightingale's girlhood.

And generally to entertain, instruct and interest our colleagues from near and far, in a personality of unique genius and greatness, whose association with nursing sheds such a glow of beneficence upon us—for which we can never be sufficiently grateful.

THE NIGHTINGALE CULT.

We speak now of the Nightingale Cult. How has it evolved? Primarily through the exposition of her character and temperament in Sir Edward Cook's illuminating "Life."

After studying it we were relieved to substitute for the popular dear, sweet Saint (a mystic maybe) the masterly administrator, and the greatest health mis-sioner of the nineteenth century.

Her Lamp did not only reveal misty shadows in the sick room—its brilliant rays flashed afar and illuminated dense and dangerous districts, and startled noisome beasts of prey, it penetrated and electrified torpid brains to action, and increased the heart beats of the humane. Indeed its glorious lustre grows brighter day by day.

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