

RECEPTION AT THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

It was an inspiring occasion when at their Reception on July 4th, the first day of "Nightingale Week," the President and Councillors of the British College of Nurses welcomed International Delegates, International Students, Fellows, Members and their friends at 39, Portland Place.

The great doors were thrown wide open to admit guests. The lofty entrance, where floral decorations of stately delphiniums with pale green of ferns gave pleasant welcome from a radiant sun without, presented a very animated scene.

The arrangements of the College were shown with pride.

When passing down to tea, the Lecture Hall, a perfect specimen of Adam decoration (the scene of the Morning Conference), was greatly admired, and the floral decorations of lovely English roses and pink spireas harmonised with the French-grey walls with charming effect.

The visit to the Library aroused great interest. Here was on view the life-like portrait of Miss Isla Stewart, placed on the antique cabinet, which contains many fine books which she loved dearly, in the section devoted to her memory. As one of the most forceful "Nightingales" whose courageous work for nursing organisation during her twenty-three years' term of office as Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, places her for all time in the very forefront of professional leaders, the younger generation of "internationals" realised the debt owed to her when they were informed that she was in the Chair on July 1st, 1899, when the International Council of Nurses was founded in London, an epoch-making event.

The Club-room, a place for rest and refreshment, looked at its best — "roses, roses all the way." A real English "strawberry and cream" tea was served in the Secretary's fine office and in the Council Chamber adjoining, where statuettes of Kuan-yin, Chinese Goddess of Mercy, and Florence Nightingale gazed silently on the animated scene.

Many of the lovely flowers were a gift from the garden of Mrs. Wates, a Fellow who never visits the College empty-handed in summer time!

To Miss Stewart Bryson, the Secretary, and her assistant hand-maidens, who paid a visit to Covent Garden in the early morning hours, the really very tasteful floral decorations were due—an expression of feeling that every honour must be offered to our International Guests, who had come overseas to take part in the Conference and Ceremonies of "Nightingale Week," inevitably an event of historical significance in nursing annals.

THE NIGHTINGALE BRICKS.

Upon arrival the International Guests and Students attending the International Courses at Bedford College, assembled in the fine Council Chamber where, on the table, were arranged inscribed parcels tied with the national colours, and addressed to each official delegate, to whom the President presented them in turn.

Inside the parcel was placed a card inscribed, "National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, Nightingale Week. This Brick from No. 10, South Street, London: the home of Miss Florence Nightingale, O.M., from 1865-1910, was presented to ———, July 4th, 1932."

"No doubt," Mrs. Fenwick said, "you will wonder what these patriotic looking little packets contain, you will, I feel sure, appreciate them when you know that in each is a Brick from the wall of the room at No. 10, South Street, London, in which Miss Florence Nightingale spent so many hours of the last forty-five years of her valuable life. Will they not indeed make a sure foundation on which to build the National Memorial in your home lands of the International Florence Nightingale Foundation in which we all hope to participate in the future? The little house in South Street, now alas! to be demolished, will no doubt soon remain merely as a memory with the faithful, but in owning a Brick from the walls of this sometime sacred room, I feel sure your National Association of Nurses will realise it possesses a treasure far above rubies."

The delegates expressed their sincere pride and pleasure in possessing the Bricks "from which it was felt nothing was too wonderful to upspring."

NIGHTINGALE TREASURES.

The guests were then conducted by Miss A. M. Bushby to the Board-room of the Registered Nurses' Association, where the business of the National Council of Nurses is usually conducted, where they found many Nightingale Treasures displayed concerning which Miss Bushby aroused deep interest by her expert descriptions. The first thing to be shown was the pamphlet written by Miss Nightingale and published anonymously after her first visit to Kaiserswerth. It was written to the Ladies of England to come forward and found also work on the same lines as the Deaconesses' house at Kaiserswerth, but no response was forthcoming. The pamphlet is very rare, and it is believed that only one other copy exists. It is so fresh and "crisp" it might have been written for the present time. The next treasure shown was a receipt for £5 given in 1853 when Miss Nightingale was Lady Superintendent of the Home for Gentlewomen, 1, Harley Street. Then followed letters and books written by Miss Nightingale, also charming presentation books with very human inscriptions in her



MLLE. HELLEMANS,
President, National Federation of Belgian Nurses.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)