

THE VISIT TO THE HOME OF THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS.

The International Delegates attending the Conference of the Florence Nightingale Week were received on the morning of July 6th by the House Committee of 15, Manchester Square, the home of the International Students during their year in London, and the Internationals who were still in the house—fourteen in number.

It gave them great pleasure to meet Mr. Ernest J. Swift and Mr. de Gielgud from Paris headquarters of the League of Red Cross Societies, and other friends of the organisation.

The house is a charming old Adam House with 22 rooms available for Students, each Student having her own room, which she is permitted to arrange and decorate as she may wish. Seventeen rooms have been decorated with characteristic embroideries, pictures and pottery of seventeen different countries. (In order of arrangement of rooms they are: Jugoslavia, Greece, France, Bulgaria, India, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Latvia, Great Britain, Austria, China, Canada, Siam, Poland, Japan, Finland and Sweden.) Through the Red Cross Societies, and the Internationals themselves, not only have the rooms been made very attractive, but lovely gifts for the Drawing-room, Library and Dining-room have added great charm to the house, and giving all the Students who have lived in it a certain feeling of possession, and therefore of keen interest, which they continue to feel, still speaking of "my room" regardless of how many predecessors or successors there may have been.

The House Committee and Students graciously took the guests over the house, the Students explaining at the same time their year's work at Bedford College, and the many interesting affiliations for study and observation of Hospitals and Social Services.

The work of the year follows the University terms (three), the practical work averaging one day a week throughout the first two terms.

The Students arrive August 15th. From then until College opens the first week in October, they have practical work every day. During the Easter vacation (four weeks) they also have practical work, specialising in the particular work they expect to do in their country.

At the end of the year the Students receive a Certificate, formally presented at Bedford College, if they have successfully passed the Examination Committee.

In charge of 15, Manchester Square, Miss Nan Dorsey cares for the well-being of all Students in the happiest way, and the beautiful house is also a beautiful home.

The International Delegates were not only shown the spacious rooms and cunning little sunny bedrooms, but all the domestic offices which were speckless and in perfect order.

The International Courses.

The demand in all countries for nurses trained in public health work and for directors and teachers in training schools, who are qualified to emphasize the preventive and social, as well as the curative aspects of disease, led the League of Red Cross Societies, with the co-operation of various nursing, educational, social service and health authorities, to establish two post-graduate courses at Bedford College for Women, University of London, in conjunction with the College of Nursing. These are a Course in Public Health for Nurses, and an International Course for Nurse Administrators and Teachers in Schools of Nursing.

The English system of university education lays great stress on the value of reading and discussions in small classes under the guidance of teachers, the lectures being regarded as a basis for individual study.

THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEMORIAL COMMITTEE OF GREAT BRITAIN.

HELD AT ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL, ON JULY 6th, 1932.

On Wednesday, July 6th, a meeting was held, at 4 p.m., in the beautiful Nightingale Home at St. Thomas's Hospital, to inaugurate the National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of Great Britain, which, united with National Organisations throughout the world, hopes to promote a living educational "International Florence Nightingale Foundation," which will not only benefit the nurses of the world but the people whom they serve.

Miss Lloyd Still, C.B.E., R.R.C., Matron of the Hospital, opened the meeting by formally asking Mary, Countess of Minto, to take the Chair, in the absence of the Duchess of Devonshire, who, unfortunately, was unable to attend owing to illness.

Lady Minto addressed the Meeting, expressing her pleasure at the great honour conferred on her in being connected with the Florence Nightingale Memorial scheme, which, she considered, would have far-reaching effects throughout the world.

She then asked Mrs. Bedford Fenwick to explain the scheme from the point of view of the National Council of Nurses.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK'S SPEECH.

Mrs. Fenwick said: Madam Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen,

"I am deeply honoured in being invited to present to you the nurses' point of view in support of the proposed organisation of an educational Memorial to Miss Florence Nightingale, as I am not a member of the great School of Nursing attached to this hospital, which she founded.

We all remember the sense of injury when in early youth there was any deviation in the fairy stories told us at bed-time concerning our pet Princess. Thus the legend of the illustrious Princess Florence Nightingale was presented to us as a saintly presence which floated around in dim lamp-light, blessing the sick and wounded, and it was not until after her death half a century later that the true record of her life and character was revealed to us by Sir Edward Cook that the world realised her greatness. Then was made manifest for the first time not only her saintly and mystic qualities, but her stupendous mentality. In that "Life" she is not only revealed to us as one of the greatest of humanitarians of the nineteenth century, but as a personality of dynamic force and world driving power—a forceful organiser and great administrator.

She came, she observed, she dared, she acted. Out of chaos came order. Without doubt she was the greatest intellectual power of her age in teaching the laws of health, not only as the basis of scientific nursing, but far afield in every relation of life."

Mrs. Fenwick emphasised the ardent desire of the nurses of the world to acknowledge and commemorate the genius of Miss Nightingale. She spoke of the foundation of the International Council of Nurses in London in 1899 by a few matrons from all parts of the world, a momentous and historic occasion in the nursing world, and how at its meeting in Cologne in 1912 they had agreed that a memorial of a nursing and educational character would be the only fitting tribute to Miss Nightingale's life and example. The suggestion was approved, a tentative effort made to realise the proposal. Then came the Great War, and united effort ceased until 1931, when it was agreed that the most suitable memorial would be an endowed International Foundation in London for post-graduate nursing education.

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