

Students who have completed the Course for Nurse Administrators and Teachers:—

Eeva Aitto, Finland; Marjorie Fulton Barnett, New Zealand; Zoe Bourni, Greece; Aloisia Menich, Hungary; Dafinka Nikodimova, Bulgaria; Lucy Ottley, Great Britain; Maria Senni, Italy; Zofia Wilkomirska, Poland.

#### The Duchess of Atholl's Address.

The Duchess after presenting the Certificates delivered an interesting address in which she laid stress on the value of friendships made through joint work, and the tremendous importance of the promotion of health. "This work of the League of Red Cross Societies is all the more valuable," she said, "because it is work of a specialised kind and the students who have come here are all people who have been trained fully in that women's great profession of nursing I think the teachers here will forgive me if I say that nursing is the pre-eminent profession of all women's professions in the world. Here the League has brought together women highly qualified already in this very great women's profession, many of whom have already held responsible posts in their profession, and offers them courses leading to still more responsible posts or posts of a specialised character. The name of Florence Nightingale is a name no one who values health can ever hear without intense respect, it is one of the things of which we are specially proud that through Florence Nightingale we have been able to contribute much to the training of the nursing profession, setting the standard here and elsewhere. . . ."

The Duchess concluded her address as follows:

"I hope that when you leave us, as, of course, you will do, you will be able to work for two great causes: for the cause of health and for the cause of international understanding and friendship. I feel I can wish you nothing better than that you should be able to devote your lives to the furtherance of causes which hold in them such great hope for the future of a world that is desirous of better health for its people and of better friendship and understanding among all nations."

#### Mr. Ernest J. Swift's Address.

The next speaker was Mr. Ernest J. Swift, the Secretary-General of the League of Red Cross Societies.

We would like to publish every word of his inspiring statement but space forbids.

His opening words indicates its quality, "I think all of you who have heard the very eloquent speakers who have preceded me will agree that those who conceived the idea of an international Course for the training of nurses must have been divinely inspired, and those who have guided its destinies during the past twelve years have been equally gifted. They have created about the institution an atmosphere of devotion and character that so moulds the students that the influence of the College has reached to far fields of usefulness in many lands.

"We should indeed be proud of the tremendous influence our graduates have had on the health and happiness of vast populations. Recently I have visited eighteen national Societies, and everywhere I have found our nurses imbued with the spirit of service and sacrifice, planting and tending the ideals and principles which they have learned here. Those of us who have travelled to the South, to Central Europe, to the North, and to the Far East, have noted with justifiable pride the splendid accomplishments of the International Nurses. Every country is better for their presence, for they have added nobility and strength to the nursing profession of their homelands.

"International nurses have found that there can be heroism in everyday life. There are struggles, battling, hard work and sacrifice in each hour. Great strength is needed, determination and courage are required to meet the difficulties all along the way."

"I say these sincere words to-day because the students who are graduating to-day are about to go forth on similar missions to enrich the World through the training they have received here. The Red Cross entrusts its ideals to them with full confidence in their stewardship."

Mr. Swift then told of the work of the students in many lands visited and added, "I can confidently assure you that everywhere they are striving to reach the highest pinnacles of service."

In conclusion Mr. Swift said: "The League deeply regrets that it can no longer continue the complete support of the Courses, but we are most happy and gratified to know that the Florence Nightingale International Foundation is in course of formation and planning to carry on the work. Certainly we should be proud that the International Council of Nurses as well as the British Nurses should choose our Courses to be a living international memorial to that splendid nurse, Florence Nightingale.

"The League of Red Cross Societies, however, is by no means deserting the cause of International Nursing education. Far from that. It will continue actively on the Council of the Foundation and will lend support through the granting of scholarships."

Mr. Swift then expressed thanks to Sir Arthur Stanley and all who had helped to organise the Courses. To the graduates he said, "Goodbye and good luck. Everywhere there are marvellous opportunities for you. The field is wide and we know that you will succeed."

#### Miss Venny Snellman's Address.

Miss Venny Snellman, Inspector of Nursing Education, State Board of Health, Finland, and President of the N.C.N., Finland, gave a most eloquent and instructive address on post-graduate education for nurses and the modern public health movement for which we hope to find space in a future issue.

As an old International Student Miss Snellman congratulated the new class on its achievements and added, "We who have benefited by the Bedford College Courses cannot think of the future without the same opportunities for new groups and new generations of nurses. When it became known that these Courses might have to be discontinued, we felt that it would be the heaviest sacrifice that the world crisis could cause the nursing profession on this side of the globe. Nothing, therefore, could fill the heart of an old International with greater joy than the news that the Florence Nightingale Memorial was to take the form of a living institution for post-graduate education for nurses and that the memorial was to be in London. When this Spring the plans took more definite form and the present scheme became known, old Internationals all over the World were very proud of the fact that the Bedford College Courses might in the future bear the name of the greatest of nurses and that they were valued highly enough to be supported not only by the Red Cross Societies but also by the nurses of the World."

#### Votes of Thanks.

The Votes of Thanks were then proposed and seconded by students, Miss Zoe Bourni of Greece and Miss Frantiska Picova of Czechoslovakia, in excellent English.

The Chairman thanked them for the graceful manner in which they had expressed thanks, and the Meeting then terminated.

#### Reception at Bedford College.

At the conclusion of the Presentation Ceremonies, a delightful Reception and Tea was held in the beautiful Hall of the College, where many presentations were made to our international guests, who were evidently greatly impressed with the appropriate surroundings and the fine organisation of the post-graduate teaching of nurses at Bedford College for Women.

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