

and during September Miss Elizabeth Smellie, Chief Superintendent of the Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada, Miss Elsie M. Lawler, Superintendent of Nurses, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, U.S.A., and Miss Alice E. Stewart, Lady Superintendent, The Tuberculosis League, Pittsburg, U.S.A., have all paid visits to London, and come into touch with nursing activities in England. Delightful women they all are. Let us hope we meet them all again in Paris next year.

It is always inspiring to hear of new projects for educational purposes, and we learn that "The London School of Dietetics" has been founded with offices at 7-17, Witley Court, Woburn Place, London, W.C.1, the President of which is Dr. J. Neil Leitch, M.D. (Lond.), D.P.H., D.T.M. The School has been founded to give Courses of Instruction in the Principles and Practice of Dietetics.

It is not intended to be a school of Cookery or Domestic Economy, although these subjects will be dealt with incidentally, and from a different point of view. For example, cooking methods at this School aim at considering vitamins and other essential constituents rather than the production of elaborate menus. Two classes of students are catered for. Firstly, members of the Nursing and teaching professions who wish to fill posts in hospitals and other institutions and want instruction in the scientific feeding of such communities. Secondly, high school girls who on leaving school desire an intelligent knowledge of feeding for the average household, although not intending to take a post in any institution.

Dietetics is a subject of paramount importance, the significance of which has not been sufficiently realised in this country.

There will be four School Sessions annually, starting in January, April, July and October. Successful candidates after examination will be granted a Diploma.

The following subjects are included in the Course—Physiology, Biology, Anatomy, Chemistry and Biochemistry, Bacteriology, Deficiency Diseases, Food in Health and Disease for all ages, Purchasing, Preparation and Cooking of Food, Ordering, Costing and Book-keeping, Construction of Diet Tables. This preliminary announcement is made to enable details to be satisfactorily arranged. At a later date, full details of the syllabus and names of the teaching staff will be announced.

We wish the scheme success.

An Order has been made by the Board of Charity Commissioners for England and Wales appointing trustees of the Charity of Charlotte Scott, Viscountess Ossington, for Nursing Institutions or Nurses.

It is now largely conceded that, in the training of nurses, more is desirable than is obtainable in the medical and surgical wards of a general hospital, which, as specialisation increases, tends more and more to be restricted to the basic subjects of medical and surgical nursing. We are glad to note that the "Departmental Committee on Maternal Mortality and Morbidity"

express the view that "new maternity units should, where practicable, be provided in association with general hospitals rather than as isolated units," and this for the reason that "a higher standing of obstetric practice can be attained where the resources of a general hospital and the services of specialist staff, non-obstetric as well as obstetric, can be called upon at any moment."

In endorsing this opinion it must of course be understood that it is on the assumption that the maternity unit must be absolutely self-contained, and that there is no intercourse between the medical, nursing and domestic staffs of the two sections, otherwise the result as regards maternal mortality may be as disastrous as in the days when the principles underlying successful maternity practice were not understood.

Even more emphatic is the opinion expressed by the Board of Control in its Annual Report just issued. "The developments in regard to outpatient treatment have played so important a part in the year under survey that we include in our observations on Mental Disorders a review of certain aspects of this form of treatment. We still feel, and in the light of experience gained during the past five years our feeling is strengthened, that the most profitable place in which to arrange for this line of treatment is within the outpatient department of a general hospital. We would go further and would suggest, as not unfair criticism or challenge, the view that *no hospital can maintain a claim to be truly general which wholly excludes from its sphere of activity, either in its wards or in its outpatient department, the treatment of mental illness.*"

A meeting of the Provisional Committee of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation was held on Monday, October 3rd, at the Headquarters of the British Red Cross Society, 14, Grosvenor Crescent, S.W.1. The Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, G.B.E., C.B., LL.D., was in the chair, and the immediate steps to be taken to promote the scheme were agreed.

#### THE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION.

The following is just the type of letter we have received with sincere pleasure, and if all the National Associations which form the I.C.N. respond in the same spirit, the Florence Nightingale International Foundation will soon be placed on a sound financial basis.

University of the Philippines, Manila, P.I.

MY DEAR MRS. FENWICK,—Your letter to Mrs. Diaz regarding the "Florence Nightingale Memorial" was referred to me and I have taken it to the Board of Directors for action. I am glad to inform you that the Board has pledged its support, and preparation to raise funds is now being planned. Will you please advise us if definite quota has been set for each country? If so, how much more or less is expected from us? Where and at what date should the contribution be sent?

Very sincerely yours,  
CESAREA TAN,

President, Philipino Nurses' Association.

We are sending further information to Miss Cesarea Tan with warm gratitude for her prompt response.

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