

resolved that, unless the financial support of the London courses could be ensured from outside sources, they must be closed down in 1932.

During the year following this decision, different methods of approach to organizations from which such support might be hoped, were explored in vain. In October, 1931, the Executive Committee of the League took definite action with a view to closing down the courses this year.

But barely two months later came the Geneva resolution followed by the informal suggestion that the courses initiated by the League might be considered the best available basis on which to build the proposed memorial to Florence Nightingale. The leaders of the Red Cross movement in Great Britain and in the United States were deeply impressed by this suggestion, and the American Red Cross, with its usual generosity, promptly undertook to underwrite the expenses of the courses for an additional year, in order to give time for the proposal to be carried out. Immediate advantage was taken of the breathing space thus secured, and a scheme was drawn up, in consultation between representatives of the League and the International Council of Nurses, through the initiative and under the chairmanship of Sir Arthur Stanley. The scheme was approved in April by the Executive Committee of the League and endorsed by Mademoiselle Chaptal, President of the International Council. It has been communicated to national Red Cross Societies all over the world and to the national nursing organizations represented on the International Council of Nurses.

Briefly summarized, it provides that the Florence Nightingale International Foundation shall be governed by a Grand Council comprising, in addition to representatives of the International Council of Nurses and the League of Red Cross Societies, delegates from each country participating in the scheme. Subject to the policy decisions of the Grand Council, the management of the Foundation will lie in the hands of an Executive Committee consisting of representatives of the International Council of Nurses, the League, and the educational bodies in London co-operating in providing facilities for post-graduate nursing education. The scheme contemplates the formation, in all countries where interest can be aroused, of Florence Nightingale Memorial Committees, and it is hoped that those committees will be formed on a broad basis through the joint initiative of the national Red Cross Societies and the National Nursing Organization in each country.

The task of these committees will be no easy one, for it is upon their success in raising funds for the Foundation that the future of the scheme must ultimately depend. It is encouraging to note that the distinguished nursing representatives from a dozen countries who attended the brilliantly organized "Nightingale Week" arranged by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick in London in July, expressed themselves enthusiastically in favour of the scheme and showed no discouraging degree of pessimism as regards this aspect of it. Nevertheless, it must be recognized that the present moment can hardly be regarded as a favourable one for the raising of large sums of money for international purposes. The endowment of the scheme on a permanent basis, so as to enable the Foundation itself to cover all expenses, will require a capital in sterling running well into six figures. The endowment even of the essential overhead charges would call for a capital of forty thousand pounds sterling.

Fortunately, however, the problem of complete endowment can be allowed to wait for the return of better times. The scholarships provided for nurses following the courses, either by national Societies or by the League, have of late years been fixed at £200 a year, this representing the student's board and tuition expenses, while all other overhead charges have fallen directly upon the budget of the League. Since this charge upon the League's

budget is no longer to be admitted after July, 1933, the proposal now under consideration is to raise the amount of each scholarship to £250. With the scholarships at this figure it will be possible for the Nightingale Foundation, if it is constituted in 1933, to carry on the present work on a satisfactory basis, if a minimum of twenty such scholarships can be guaranteed.

It is confidently felt that there need be little doubt as to such guarantee being obtained. In addition to the British Committee inaugurated in July, similar committees are already formed, or are in process of formation, in France and elsewhere. It will be hard indeed if the combined efforts of these committees, backed by the enthusiasm and the money-raising capacities of the Red Cross and the nursing profession in their respective countries, cannot provide the Foundation with £5,000 a year for the next few years; and their eventual success in placing the scheme on an endowed basis may, it is hoped, be predicted with equal confidence.

The question to-day confronting the sponsors of the scheme in each country is a simple one: can they, between now and the end of the year 1932, collect contributions and obtain promises which will justify them in guaranteeing one or more such £250 scholarships for the year 1933-34, and, if possible, for the four ensuing years?

If the Nightingale Committees are quickly formed, and fix their attention resolutely on obtaining an affirmative answer to that question, the maintenance of the courses will be assured. Arrangements can go forward, once twenty such guarantees are in the hands of the joint committee representing the International Council of Nurses and the League of Red Cross Societies which will take provisional responsibility for the scheme, pending the formal constitution of the Foundation. The scheme itself may of course undergo revision at the inaugural meeting, which it is hoped to hold next July in order to bring it into official existence. If these twenty scholarships are guaranteed in time, it is certain that such a meeting will be convoked, and that there will emerge from it such a Foundation as Florence Nightingale herself would have deemed a worthy memorial to her work.

It can be no mere coincidence that Sir Edward Cook's summary of the essential principles underlying the Nightingale training school, which she founded in 1860, can be applied with equal accuracy to the facilities provided at Manchester Square, at Bedford College, and by the College of Nursing: "(1) Technical, a training school; lectures, examinations, reports, etc.; (2) Moral, a home."

If events so shape themselves that the League of Red Cross Societies will prove to have made an essential contribution to the institution of a worthy permanent memorial to Florence Nightingale, this will be something more than an honour to the League: it will be the payment by the Red Cross of a just debt. Florence Nightingale was not only the founder of modern nursing—she was and remains in the public imagination "The Lady of the Lamp"—the precursor, the example, and the collaborator of Henri Dunant. "What inspired me to go to Italy during the war of 1859," said Dunant thirteen years later, "was the work of Miss Florence Nightingale in the Crimea."

For a web begun, God sendeth thread.—*Joan of Arc.*

POPPY DAY.

November 11th is Poppy Day, when we all gladly give a silver coin. This will be the twelfth annual British Legion appeal, made personally by Earl Haig up to the time of his death. To support this Cause is not charity, but the duty of every patriot who realises the debt owed to those who fought for and saved England in the Great War.

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