

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED
THE NURSING RECORD

EDITED BY MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK, REGISTERED NURSE.

No. 1,973. Vol. 80

DECEMBER, 1932.

Price Sevenpence.

EDITORIAL.

HELPING TO PROMOTE THE PEACE OF THE WORLD.

The outstanding accomplishment of 1932, both in connection with the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and in the International Nursing World, has been the decision of a representative Conference held in London in July to proceed with the organisation of the Nurses' International Educational Memorial to Florence Nightingale, first proposed, and approved, during the meeting of the International Council of Nurses in 1912, but held in abeyance owing to the Great War and the exhaustion which followed it.

The proposal to secure and endow in perpetuity a Centre in London where nursing students of all nationalities can foregather and reside, while receiving post-graduate instruction, a method which has already been fruitful in good results, would surely have commended itself to the Mother Foundress of Modern Nursing. Only an educational Memorial could content trained nurses—a Memorial International in its scope, and wide enough to appeal to the whole world, for Florence Nightingale's work for mankind extended far beyond nursing, to midwifery, hygiene, social science, organisation and administration.

But, beyond professional advantages, the converging at a common centre, with a common purpose, of nurses from all parts of the world cannot fail to stimulate understanding and good will between the nations when these nurses return to their own countries. We have already proved it in the International Council of Nurses. While Governments are anxiously seeking points of agreement, firm friendships, founded on mutual respect and affection, have been developed between British and American, French and German, Chinese and Japanese nurses, to mention but a few. Who can doubt that the influence of the nurses of the Florence Nightingale Foundation, often of considerable weight in their own countries, will be used to support the endeavour to find a *modus vivendi* when international difficulties arise?

And that we may best understand the minds of our colleagues, numbering hundreds of thousands, affiliated in the International Council of Nurses, let us take to heart the words of the Prince of Wales, when speaking recently at Oxford:—

“To learn a new language is to have a new life opened up to us, to know new people and new modes of thought, to look at men and facts from a different point of view. The ultimate aim of teaching and learning modern languages is to give a better understanding of the life, character, ideals, and aspirations of other nations.

Teachers and students of modern languages may thus become emissaries of international good will, removing national prejudices, working for an enlightened patriotism, and thus helping to promote the peace of the world.”

Next year at our International Congress we must render an account of our stewardship, and it would appear that it will prove a great awakening to those who ever doubted that the nurses all over the world have failed to realise the greatness and loveliness of Florence Nightingale, and how great an honour it is to take part in raising an International Memorial in her name.

ISN'T IT JUST SPLENDID?

At the meeting of our National Council of Nurses held on November 23rd, on the proposal of the President, it was unanimously agreed to make an appeal through the federated organisations for £500 with which to provide two Florence Nightingale Scholarships during the interim year 1933-1934. A small sub-committee, composed of Miss Littleboy (London), Miss MacManus (Guy's), Miss D. Smith (Middlesex), Miss Allbutt (Fulham), Miss Littlejohn (Infants' Hospital) and Miss A. M. Bushby, were elected to promote the appeal, which they have in hand. Even before they had time to meet, the Nightingale Fellowship voted to bestow a Scholarship (£250); a few days later news came by wire that the League of London Hospital Nurses had also decided to do likewise. On December 3rd, at the Winter Meeting, the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses unanimously and with acclamation offered a third Scholarship—£750 within ten days! Isn't it just splendid?

So many friends of our good cause are willing to help according to their means that we hope to announce quite soon that Five Scholarships will be financed through the federated members of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain.

The nurses of the world naturally expect us to prove our love and loyalty to Florence Nightingale; they will, we feel sure, unite with us to make the Foundation of world-wide renown.

THE NEW GENERAL NURSING COUNCILS.

We announce in other columns the names of the successful candidates elected as members of the English and Scottish General Nursing Councils, 1933-37. Realising their responsibility as the representatives of the Registered Nurses by whom they have been elected, we wish them courage to promote and protect the interests of the members of their constituencies and the public whom they serve.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)