

## ROYAL SUPPORT FOR THE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

The following letter has been received by the President of the National Council of Nurses from her Royal Highness Princess Arthur of Connaught, S.R.N.

41, Belgrave Square, S.W.1.  
April 4th. 1933.

DEAR MADAM,

I am desired by Her Royal Highness Princess Arthur of Connaught to forward the enclosed cheque, value £5 5s. 0d., as a donation towards the Florence Nightingale Scholarship.

Yours faithfully,

F. CASSWELL,  
*Secretary.*

The President,  
The National Council of Nurses of Great Britain,  
39, Portland Place, W.1.

The Nursing Profession will, we feel sure, wish to thank Princess Arthur of Connaught for her generous gift, and for associating herself with the National Council of Nurses in support of the Florence Nightingale Scholarships appeal.

### THE CONJOINT COMMITTEE.

#### FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE SCHOLARSHIPS FUND.

The first meeting of the Conjoint Committee of the Florence Nightingale Scholarships Fund was held recently in London at 14, Grosvenor Crescent. The Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley presided. This Committee is composed of the three representatives of the International Council of Nurses, authorised to act until such time as the meeting of the International Council in Paris, in July next—Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss A. Lloyd-Still and Miss E. M. Musson—and three members of the League of Red Cross Societies—The Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, G.B.E.; Mr. Ernest Swift, Secretary-General; and Mrs. Maynard Carter, Chief, Division of Nursing, L.R.C.S. All members attended the Committee and very encouraging reports were presented. Fifteen scholarships, to cover the interim period, July, 1933-1934, were announced, and it was agreed that the educational work at Bedford College for Women and at the Residence, 15, Manchester Square, should continue as heretofore, until the Draft Scheme for a Florence Nightingale International Foundation had been discussed by the Grand Council of the I.C.N. in Paris.

It was reported that the Nurses' Organisations, composing the National Council and the Matrons' and Nursing Staffs of various hospitals, had subscribed and promised £1,625 2s. 8d.; and that they had subscribed another £500 through the British Red Cross Society—a wonderful response in so short a time.

It was agreed that at least one Scholarship of £250 should be awarded to England and one to Scotland, to be nominated through the National Council of Nurses; and that certain of the Dominions and India should be offered a like privilege.

Through Mlle. Chaptal it was announced that one Scholarship would be available for France for the interim period; and through the League of Red Cross Societies the funds would be forthcoming to finance the remaining six scholarships, so that the Bridge Builders have by their generosity secured the continuance of the very excellent work for international nursing education promoted by the League of Red Cross Societies in 1920,

at Bedford College for Women. We feel sure that every nurse who has subscribed will realise the privilege of helping to sustain the good work until the International Florence Nightingale Foundation is secured.

#### DONATIONS STILL COMING IN.

We beg to acknowledge with sincere gratitude the following donations to the Florence Nightingale Scholarships Fund:—

	£	s.	d.
From Miss A. Charteris, Matron, and the Nursing Staff, Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne (first instalment) ...	20	0	0
From Miss M. A. Marks, Matron, and the Nursing Staff, Royal Infirmary, Preston. (The various efforts amongst the staff to raise the money were organised by Miss S. F. Rossiter, Assistant Matron.) ...	20	0	0
Prince of Wales General Hospital, Tottenham, Nurses' League ...	7	7	0
From the Matron and Nursing Staff, the Guest Hospital and Eye Infirmary, Dudley	2	0	0
From the Matron and Nursing Staff, David Lewis Northern Hospital, Liverpool ...	1	10	0
From Miss A. M. Bright, M.B.C.N. ...	1	0	0
From Miss C. Rivett ...	0	5	0
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	£52	2	0

### THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

#### FEWER BLIND BABIES.

##### NATIONAL INSTITUTE AND ACCOMMODATION.

According to the National Institute for the Blind, the number of blind children in this country is decreasing. During the past two years, the number of sightless babies under five years of age has fallen by nearly 16 per cent.

This diminution, an Institute official suggests, is largely due to the fact that the problem of blindness in infancy is now being tackled at its source. Compulsory notification of ophthalmia of the new born is already showing good results.

About one-quarter of all blind babies submitted for examination are found by the National Institute to be "mentally retarded," and special accommodation and treatment must be provided for such cases. The present decrease in numbers will enable the Institute to deal more efficiently with this branch of its welfare work.

Local authorities throughout the country have been notified that the Sunshine Home at Leamington is to be immediately evacuated by all "normal" blind babies, who will transfer to other Sunshine Homes, and that the building will be reserved exclusively for those needing the special treatment.

As a result of such treatment, practically all the babies become quite normal except for their blindness; and it has even happened in some cases that children certified as blind have responded so satisfactorily that actual recovery of sight has occurred, allowing them to proceed to an ordinary "sighted" school.

#### NATIONAL BABY WEEK COUNCIL. 1933 CAMPAIGN.

The National Baby Week Council, while regarding all aspects of the maternity and child welfare problem as important subjects for propaganda, urges that during 1933 special attention should be concentrated on:—

- (a) The ways and means of preparation for parenthood.
- (b) The furtherance of the aims and objects of the Central Union of Fathers' Councils with the object of promoting

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