

to May 1st, 1934. Up to the present such committees have been constituted in Great Britain, France, Belgium, Holland, Latvia, Canada and South Africa. In the United States two such committees have been set up—one by the American Red Cross and the other by the American Nurses' Association and these two committees are working sympathetically together.

It is hoped that national Committees will be formed in other countries through the initiative of the national Red Cross Societies and the national Nurses' Associations.

The functions of the National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committees will not be confined to the raising of funds; they will also formulate suggestions to the Grand Council with regard to its educational policy and be responsible for the selection of candidates for the scholarships which the funds will make available.

The Provisional Committee further decided to take the preliminary steps necessary for the organisation of the International Courses for the Session 1934-1935.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN TRAINED NURSES' ASSOCIATION SECURE A MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP.

The late Mrs. A. H. Smith Memorial Scholarship.

It is with great pleasure that we announce that Mr. A. H. Smith, O.B.E., of Durban, has offered a scholarship of £250 to the Durban Branch of the South African Trained Nurses' Association as a part of the scheme of the International Council of Nurses for a permanent Memorial to Florence Nightingale, as a Memorial to the late Mrs. Smith, who during her lifetime showed a great interest in nursing and nurses. The South African Trained Nurses' Association has thus the honour of being the first of the British Dominions to secure the gift of a Scholarship to the Florence Nightingale Memorial Foundation, and we cordially congratulate its President, Miss B. G. Alexander, R.R.C., and those colleagues associated with her in securing this generous gift, on this distinction.

How it came about is related by Miss B. Lazarus, of Durban, in the October issue of the *South African Nursing Record*. It was in this wise:—"There lives in Durban a quiet, retiring man, who, having been left a considerable fortune by his father a good many years ago, apparently lives for the purpose of seeing that that fortune benefits as many people as it is in his power to arrange.

"Up to about two years ago, Mr. Smith (A. H. Smith, O.B.E.) was assisted and supported in his beneficent work by a devoted wife, but he is now a lonely and childless man, mourning her untimely death, but carrying on her traditions of service . . .

"A little conversation between Miss Alexander, Miss Winter and writer (Miss Lazarus) over a little lunch party in a restaurant in Johannesburg last year, on the subject of Public Health Scholarships under the Florence Nightingale Memorial resulted in an appeal to Mr. Smith; it was confidently undertaken, and the hopes of the writer were in nowise dashed at not receiving a reply to her first letter; after waiting some months she sent another letter, accompanied by an explanatory cutting from the *Nursing Record*, and waited again. Some further time elapsed, but at the annual meeting of the District Nursing Association, Mr. Smith expressed his interest and asked for a little more information, and another letter was sent. Then an interview with himself and his secretary in his office, with high hopes raised, and a little later the coveted letter arrived, offering the gift of a £250 scholarship for a course in Public Health at Bedford College under the memorial to Florence

Nightingale, at the same time to be a memorial to the late Mrs. A. H. Smith.

"Mr. Smith laid down certain conditions; he said that as his money had been made in Durban, he wished a Durban girl to benefit, and therefore the successful candidate must be one who can lay claim to Durban as her home town. She need not be immediately resident in Durban, and her training may have been taken anywhere else; she need not necessarily have been born in Durban, either. Some undertaking must be given that she will continue nursing for two years at least after qualifying in this special sphere, and as a *sine qua non*, she must be a member of the S.A.T.N.A., and a fully trained general nurse."

This gift is a hopeful augury for the success of the Florence Nightingale Memorial Foundation when the Endowment Appeal is launched. We hope that other Associations affiliated to the International Council of Nurses will be inspired by the example of the S.A.T.N.A. to interest those who are able to help the Foundation, as well as their own members, to support it liberally.

CANADA WILL BE THERE.

Miss Jean I. Gunn, Superintendent of Nurses, Toronto General Hospital, states in *The Canadian Nurse* for November: "The Congress of the International Council of Nurses, held in France and Belgium in July, 1933, will be recorded in the history of the Council as being the Congress at which the Memorial to Florence Nightingale was definitely planned and the necessary steps taken for our organisation to bring this much desired Memorial into being."

Miss Gunn gives an admirable résumé of the history of the proposed Foundation, and concludes: "It would seem that this is a unique opportunity for the Nurses of the World to demonstrate in a very suitable and material way their acknowledgment of the debt, that the Members of the Nursing profession owe to their great leader Florence Nightingale. It is an opportunity that we as Canadian Nurses will want to share. When this great Memorial is established, and nursing in every land is feeling its influence, we will want to feel that we helped to lay the Foundation Stones and shared the early struggles, and that we have a right to feel proud of its success."

Miss Gunn was elected in Brussels one of the five representatives of the International Council of Nurses on the proposed Grand Council of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation.

The Canadian Nurses' Association have intimated that they propose to nominate Miss F. H. M. Emory, President, University of Toronto, Ontario, and Miss G. M. Fairley, Superintendent of Nurses, General Hospital, Vancouver, and Chairman Education Committee as its representatives on the Grand Council of the Nightingale Foundation.

Here we have a trio of women in the very first rank as administrators of Nursing Education in Canada of which any Association of Nurses may be proud.

A WISE DECISION.

ONE PORTAL TO THE REGISTER.

The tension in the Nursing World on the question of the split Preliminary Examination has been relieved by the action of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales in reaffirming, at its meeting on November 24th, the decision of the last Council "that it would not be in the interests of the candidates nor of the Profession that the Preliminary Examination should be divided."

We invite our readers to study the comprehensive Report of the discussion in the following pages.

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