

THE OPENING OF THE WINTER SESSION.

No opening of the Winter Session of the British College of Nurses has been of greater interest than that held on Saturday, October 21st, for the presence of the Florence Nightingale International Students of the 1933-1934 Course at Bedford College, with Miss N. Dorsey, Sister-in-Charge of International House, their Residential Hostel at 15, Manchester Square, made the gathering specially notable. That this was appreciated both by the members of the Council—the majority of whom were present in their Robes to do honour to the occasion—and by Fellows and Members of the College was evident. They greatly valued the opportunity of social intercourse with colleagues, not only from England and Scotland but from countries so far distant as Czechoslovakia, Norway, Sweden, Greece, Spain, Iceland, Finland, Hungary, Lithuania, Italy, Yugoslavia, Australia, India, New Zealand, and Mexico.

The guests were received by the President in the Entrance Hall, bright with single pink chrysanthemums and fine white Michaelmas daisies, and, having signed their names in the visitors' book, they passed on to the beautiful Council Chamber, where the decorations were crimson chrysanthemums, and where they had the opportunity of inspecting some of the treasures accumulated by the College. Tea was served in this room, and in the Secretary's Office, where the tables were gay with Michaelmas daisies and yellow roses and chrysanthemums, while mauve Michaelmas daisies were chosen for the decoration of the Club Room. Conversation between the Fellows and Members and their guests, revealed the essential unity throughout the world of the members of the nursing profession, and the high educational and ethical standards attained by the profession in the countries which had sent such charming representatives to participate in the International Courses.

The Meeting was held in the Lecture Hall, bright with pink roses and single pink chrysanthemums, which the light from the lovely chandeliers showed to perfection.

The President welcomed those present, with a very special greeting for the International Students. She briefly outlined the history of the International Council of Nurses, founded in London at the annual meeting of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain in 1899, and which had the happiness of securing the services of Lavinia Dock, who circulated around creating interest in its objects. Since that day it had been growing all over the world, so that the recent Congress in Paris and Brussels was attended by upwards of 2,500 nurses and 42 countries were represented, proving the success of one of the most wonderful movements for the uplift of humanity ever accomplished.

Mrs. Fenwick then read to a most interested audience the inspiring Paper on "Principles and Ideals in Education—Their Application to Nursing Education," presented in Brussels to the International Congress by Sister Pierre, Directrice of the Nursing School of the University of Louvain, and acclaimed as the finest paper of the Congress, saying that if the Members of the Congress had only brought away and put into practice the teaching of this one paper it would have been worth while. It was hoped to print it in leaflet form.

Miss Le Geyt expressed her pleasure at meeting once again some of the friends, old and new, whom she had met at the recent Congress. Its magnificent organisation, and the courtesy and kindness extended to its members were truly international, and the members were the finest product and flower of their countries. Who could forget the two Presidents in France and Belgium, or the inspiring speech of Mlle. Chaptal on Concord. It was an inspiration to go forward with courage. She envied the opportunities of the International Students.

Miss Dorsey expressed her thanks on behalf of the students for the invitation to this interesting gathering, and thought it a special occasion for the International Group, 1933-1934. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President, and her colleagues of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain had helped to provide the funds to finance the scholarships of the present year. There were 18 students from 17 countries, of whom 17 were present.

The meeting would be interested to know that during the recent Congress in Paris there was a reunion of past International Students, when 58 were present, representing the class of every year since these courses had been founded twelve years ago. The names of many of them appeared in the programme of the Congress and five of them were members of the Board of Directors of the I.C.N. She expected they would all come to the International Congress in London in 1937.

The President, in conclusion, said how much British nurses had appreciated the opportunity of contact with the nurses of other nations, delightful people with bright minds and new ideas. London loved to welcome students from all the world over—and already she felt sure the students loved London. Hoping they would all soon meet again, happy farewells were exchanged.

GRATITUDE FOR KINDNESS AND COURTESY.

Mlle. Chaptal has printed in *L'Infirmière Française*, the official organ of the National Association of Trained Nurses of France, of which she is editor, a number of letters which she has received since the International Congress of Nurses in Paris from Presidents, Delegates and leading nurses attending the Congress, including Miss Alicia Lloyd-Still, C.B.E., R.R.C., the President I.C.N., from Great Britain, Canada, India, Belgium, Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Norway, Switzerland, and from Mrs. Maynard Carter, Directress of Nursing Section of the League of Red Cross Societies, Paris, all expressing warm appreciation of the success of the Congress, and their gratitude for the kindness and courtesy they then received.

THE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL.

The Duke of York, Chairman of the British Red Cross Society, presided at the statutory half-yearly meeting of the Council of the Society, at 14, Grosvenor Crescent, S.W., on November 2nd, before the meeting presented the Florence Nightingale Medal to Miss Lloyd Still, C.B.E., R.R.C., Matron of St. Thomas's Hospital, and President of the International Council of Nurses; and to Miss W. E. Walters, the Superintendent of the Civil Hospital at Karachi.

POPPY DAY.

Captain W. G. Willcox, the organising secretary of Earl Haig's British Legion Appeal, asks for more voluntary helpers for Poppy Day, on November 11th. He points out that every additional poppy seller means a greater income for the Fund, the offer of a car and the services of a driver for the transport of poppies effects a considerable saving in transport costs, that the greater the number of poppies sold the greater the amount of employment available for disabled ex-Service men, and that the purchase of a poppy wreath gives added help to distressed ex-Service men and employment to the disabled.

Forty million poppies will, it is anticipated, be on sale in the British Empire, and it is hoped to achieve a record result.

Nurses have always loyally taken a share in this good work, and no doubt will respond to this appeal.

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