

received by her, but which, owing to the authority of less enlightened persons, failed to materialise.

Then the power which fore-ordains—Destiny—declared War. Here I am tempted to speak on destiny, but might be called to order.

In 1920 the League of Red Cross Societies organised and financed Courses of nursing education for International Students at Bedford College, work of the highest importance and value.

During the next decade the I.C.N. Committee under American Chairmanship took no practical action in connection with the Florence Nightingale International Memorial. In 1929, elected to the Chair of that Committee, I thought the time had come to act, but realised that there was no room in London for a second international scheme of nursing education.

Came 1931, when owing to financial reasons the League of Red Cross Societies announced the termination of its International Educational Courses.

Surely a predetermined event!

Here let us pause to realise the significance of this announcement! Sincere regret for the loss of such admirable educational work.

How to retain it.

Was it possible that the magic personality of Florence Nightingale might by associating the nurses of the world with generous-minded people who resent the ravages of disease, and their consequent tragedy, unite them and advance the international memorial projected by the International Council of Nurses for so many years? Surely the power which ordains directed such union.

You will remember that at the Meeting of the Board of Directors of the I.C.N. in Geneva in 1931 I presented a Report, together with an exhaustive letter from Miss Adelaide Nutting, advocating that the Nightingale International Foundation should take the form of an endowed foundation for post-graduate nursing education in London. This was agreed.

In the November of that year, at the Annual Meeting of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, it was agreed to confer with competent Red Cross authorities in London in view of making permanent the International Nursing Courses as the nucleus of the International Florence Nightingale Memorial.

These conversations, made possible by the courtesy of Sir Arthur Stanley, Chairman of the British Red Cross Society, had the happiest results. The League of Red Cross Societies generously consented to finance the work at Bedford College for another year, and by 1932 the union of the I.C.N. and the Red Cross was well advanced.

#### Action of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, 1932.

The National Council of Nurses of Great Britain organised and financed Nightingale Week, July, 1932. Many International Delegates attended. Deeply interested in educational institutions and work, they came into touch with the spirit of Florence Nightingale in her Motherland, paid homage at her grave with prayer and flowers, were permitted to visit her former home at Embley Park. These pilgrims carried to their various countries a live report of the scope and scheme for the F.N. International Foundation, arousing enthusiasm in many countries for international nursing education associated with the revered pioneer of modern nursing. During Nightingale Week the National Committee of Great Britain was inaugurated on July 6th, 1932, at St. Thomas's Hospital.

In December, 1932, the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain issued an appeal for Funds to its constituent societies, and the nursing staffs of Hospitals, which has received most generous support. Approximately the nurses in Great Britain have to date subscribed £3,250,

which enabled them to finance seven Scholarships for the 1933-1934 Session, and two for the coming session of 1934-1935 at the expenditure of £2,250, leaving in hand £1,018 10s., including a gift of £18 10s. presented to me for a Nightingale Memorial some years ago; £528 of which by special request of the Queen's Nurses has been earmarked for the Endowment Fund.

I feel sure you will realise the enthusiasm and generosity of our British Nurses in subscribing this large sum in 18 months, and thus helping to finance scholarships during this interim period.

For the Session 1933-1934 students attended for the Course in Public Health from Sweden, England, Hungary, India, Lithuania, Italy, Finland, Yugoslavia, New Zealand and Great Britain.

And for the Course for Nurse Administrators and Teachers in Schools of Nursing, from Czechoslovakia, Greece, Norway, Scotland, Mexico, Iceland, Spain and Australia.

For this next Session 1934-1935 already 16 Students have been approved from Great Britain, France, South Africa, Canada, Holland, Germany, Turkey, Bulgaria and Denmark.

#### Social Studies.

The Provisional Committee have this year approved the organisation of a year's course in Social Studies for public health nurses. This Course, which is intended primarily for public health nurses from those countries where high courses for social training are not available, will be accepted for the International Certificate alternately with the Course in Public Health and the Course for Nurse Administrators and Teachers in Schools of Nursing. No doubt from time to time further advances will be made in the organisation of special instruction to meet scientific demands.

#### The International Council of Nurses.

We now come to the action taken by the International Council of Nurses.

As you know, the Draft Scheme for the Florence Nightingale International Foundation was submitted to the Board of Directors and Grand Council for consideration in Paris in July, 1933. That with appropriate recommendations for the preservation of professional expression the Draft Scheme was unanimously adopted. This Scheme, as you know, provides for the organisation on a national basis of co-operation between National Associations of Nurses, grouped in the I.C.N., and National Red Cross Societies, associated together with representation on the Grand Council, the governing body of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation; a simple yet definite basis of representation, through which organisations every trained nurse and every philanthropic member of the public may honourably associate together in support of this international Memorial to a supreme benefactor of humanity.

The Board of Directors of the I.C.N. elected at a Meeting held in Brussels on July 16th, 1933, the five following delegates to represent it on the Grand Council of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation when inaugurated:

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Chairman, I.C.N. Memorial Committee.

Miss Alicia Lloyd Still, President, I.C.N., Great Britain.

Miss Effie Taylor, United States of America.

Miss Jean Gunn, Canada.

Sister Bergliot Larsson, Norway.

Until which time it was agreed that Miss Lloyd Still, Miss Musson and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick should act on the Provisional Committee, together with the three representatives of the League of Red Cross Societies which compose it.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)