

"STEPPING STONES"

OR THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF THE INTERNATIONALS, 1934-35.

We are assured that Florence Nightingale Students accepted for the Courses offered by Bedford College, and resident at Florence Nightingale International House, 15, Manchester Square, have a most strenuous time, and to judge from the Prospectus, we can well believe it. Recreation is therefore all the more desirable. From a recent entertainment at which we had the pleasure of being present, hard work appears to be an incentive to the creative faculty, fun and frolic. The occasion was the production of "Stepping Stones," given by "Internationals" 1934-1935, and the warmest praise is due to Miss Christine Murray (Canada), the producer of the realistic skit in which "we see ourselves as others see us" without a false or indiscreet allusion, although national idiosyncrasies did not escape. The whole group of twenty-one students appeared on the stage, the drawing-room being adapted for the purpose, the guests being seated in the Library, with improvised curtain and lights, all wonderfully adapted for the purpose of make-believe.

ACT I.

HALL AT 15, MANCHESTER SQUARE.

Time—August 13th, 1934.

On the rising of the curtain the Warden (a wonderful presentation of Miss Dorsey) is discovered at her table, notebook in hand. She is awaiting the arrival of the twenty-one students from various parts of the world, and as they arrive one by one, as distinct in type as nationals really are, each receives a courteous and smiling welcome. To describe the twenty-one individuals each with pronounced idiosyncrasies would need columns, but the gifts they offered aroused great amusement: Denmark with her packet of bacon, with the assurance that "there was more where that came from"; Holland with her rosy Dutch cheese, a taste of which "she must have at breakfast"; Scotland "brought porridge," with a thrifty reference to the expenditure of "saxpence"; the "independence" of U.S.A., and so on, sent a ripple of laughter through the audience. It may seem an easy matter to secure harmony in a household of international students, but, with all the good will in the world, it would appear to need sincere international sympathies and fine tact throughout the entire community.

ACT II.

This act was staged in the Library, same place, six months later. The students who are studying around the

table are evidently not unused to interruptions from colleagues not so inclined. We listen to many amusing stories and gather the troubles and triumphs of the daily lives of foreigners in our midst. All very instructive.

ACT III.

THE DRAWING-ROOM. SUMMER 1961.

An International Congress of Nurses is about to be held in London. Many of the 1934-35 Students now in middle age meet to their great delight, and recount their doings—professional triumphs and marriage. Everything was very advanced, in which Television was well to the fore.

THE INTERVAL.

During the interval:—

Miss Fatma Kemal (Turkey) danced a *pas seul* most charmingly in Turkish costume (see opposite page).

Miss Barbara Renton (Scotland) gave a spirited Highland Fling in becoming kilts and Miss Veilands (Latvia) charmed with Latvian songs in a sweet bird-like trill. With the collaboration of all the members of the group the songs specially written for the entertainment were given in chorus, and very topical they were.

THE TABLEAU.

A beautiful Tableau commemorating the founding of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation, July 5th, 1934 (which is reproduced on this page), was beautifully grouped and was loudly applauded. The Florence Nightingale costume was loaned by the Nightingale School,



Tableau commemorating the founding of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation, July, 1934.

at St. Thomas's Hospital.

Everyone concerned with the show is to be greatly congratulated. We have to thank Mrs. Killby for the photograph of the Tableau, and Miss Dorothy M. Dickinson for the picture of Miss Kemal, taken in the Manchester Square Gardens.

We are glad to learn that the proceeds of the evening's entertainment amounted to £17 11s. 9d.

THE HISTORY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES, 1899-1925.

Those who wish to secure copies of The History of the International Council of Nurses, 1899-1925 (illustrated), will do well to place their orders with Miss M. Breay, Hon. Treasurer, National Council of Nurses, 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, as soon as possible. Price, 5s., post free.

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