

THE NATIONAL FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

THE NATIONAL FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEMORIAL COMMITTEE OF GREAT BRITAIN.

The following letter of Appeal submitted by the National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of Great Britain appeared in *The Times* on January 12th, and it is to be hoped will receive a generous response from the public, who are beginning to realise the value of skilled nursing and a high standard of public health throughout the world.

"CREATOR OF MODERN NURSING."

MEMORIAL TO FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

To the Editor of *The Times*.

SIR,—The National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of Great Britain, which is appealing to the people of this country, is a unit in a great international movement to raise a permanent and living memorial to the memory of Florence Nightingale which will carry on and extend her great and beneficent work. Already upwards of 20 countries have formed, or are in process of forming, national committees to collect funds.

The memorial, by the enthusiastic agreement of nurses of all nations, will take the form of the endowment, in London, of post-graduate courses of training in public health nursing and of teaching and administration in schools of nursing. These courses are already in operation, having been established soon after the War by the League of Red Cross Societies, with the collaboration of Bedford College for Women (University of London) and the College of Nursing, and there is a comfortable hostel for the students at 15, Manchester Square, W.1. The scholarships have been financed from year to year by the League of Red Cross Societies (which has now exhausted its money available for the purpose) and the efforts of the nurses federated in the International Council of Nurses, and some 220 nurses from 43 countries, including our own, our Colonies and Dependencies, have completed the training and returned to their home countries to fill positions of importance and responsibility.

The standardisation of nursing throughout the world is of supreme importance, and hardly less so the opportunity which is given to representative women of all nations to meet each other in daily study and in the social intercourse of a common home life. Just as Florence Nightingale looked back upon her training at Kaiserswerth, on the Rhine, as the inspiration which fitted her for her great services to her country, so these international students carry away with them from their studies in London an ideal which will be of inestimable benefit to the world.

We especially appeal to the citizens of London to initiate the movement in this country because Florence Nightingale was one of them and was honoured as an honorary Freeman of the City, and, with one exception, she is the only woman upon whom this coveted distinction has been conferred.

It is apt to be forgotten that Florence Nightingale was the creator of modern nursing in all its branches, whether civil or military, and that she reformed the Poor Law infirmaries and did much to establish the first district nursing associations. She revolutionised hospitals and hospital administration so that, from being in many cases pest-houses of disease, hospitals became the hygienic and sanitary places which we know to-day as cheerful centres of hope and healing in a suffering world. There is no human being in any civilised country for whom life has not been made more tolerable by her enlightened vision and her long life of unremitting toil. She has become an

international figure, and no merely national memorial, however excellent, could adequately keep alive and extend the enduring principles of her universal service to mankind.

We earnestly commend this international memorial to Florence Nightingale for the endowment of these scholarships for trained nurses to the generous and sympathetic consideration of the citizens of London and the people of Great Britain in the hope and belief that her own country, which owes so much to her, will take an honourable share in raising the total sum required of £200,000, of which it is desired to raise £40,000 by July next.

Donations will be received with gratitude by the Duchess of Devonshire, President of the National Florence Nightingale Memorial, 14, Grosvenor Crescent, London, S.W.1. Lists of donations will be published periodically in the advertisement columns of *The Times*.

We are, yours faithfully,

EVELYN DEVONSHIRE (President, National Florence Nightingale Memorial).

ALICIA LLOYD STILL (President, Florence Nightingale International Foundation).

ETHEL GORDON FENWICK (President, the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain).

ARTHUR STANLEY (Chairman, Executive Committee National Florence Nightingale Memorial).

THE OLD INTERNATIONALS' ASSOCIATION.

The Old Internationals' Association, is composed of international students who have been admitted and completed their course of study at Bedford College, London, formerly associated with the League of Red Cross Societies, and now as students under the Florence Nightingale International Foundation. These students during the past fourteen years have come from all over the world, and it is hoped that in the future the truly international representation will continue. We have received a copy of the recent issue of the *News Letter*, the official organ published twice a year by the Association, which contains much interesting information, and there is evidence that under the New Constitution of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation the students are pleased to realise as little alteration as is permissible has been effected in their environment. Headquarters are still at 15, Manchester Square, London, now officially named Florence Nightingale International House.

The *News Letter* contains the list of officers of the Association, of which Miss Venny Snellman, of Finland, is President and Miss Dorsey Hon. Secretary. The Constitution and By-laws appear to protect the liberties of Active Members, who associate with those privileged persons who presumably are calculated to strengthen its proceedings.

Such an association of students as they annually pass out of the environment of Florence Nightingale International House will be able to carry far and wide its value as an international agent of goodwill between the nurses of the world, and as in the future the majority will be members of, and the privileged pupils of their National Associations, their experience will be of value in the councils of such associations when they return to work in their own countries.

"The Old Internationals" have a representative on the Committee of Management of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation, to which position of responsibility Mlle. Mechelynck of Belgium has been appointed.

The Association has taken time by the forelock and has secured permission for the use of Bedford College Residence for "Old Internationals" during the Congress of the International Council of Nurses, which is to meet in London in the summer of 1937.

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