

## A VISIT TO FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE INTERNATIONAL HOUSE.

On Friday, May 22nd, a party of Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses had the pleasure of visiting the Florence Nightingale International House, 15, Manchester Square, London, W., the Headquarters of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation.

They were most courteously received by the Warden, Miss N. Dorsey, in the beautiful drawing-room.

In a short survey of the history of this house, Miss Dorsey explained that for many years it was used by the League of Red Cross Societies for their international students, until 1933, when they were unable to continue. 15, Manchester Square then became the Headquarters of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation (formed by the joint action of the League of Red Cross Societies and the International Council of Nurses).

It was learned that the house, of the Adam period, dates from about 1783, that the leasehold of the property was given to the Florence Nightingale International Foundation by the League of Red Cross Societies, that the original lease is signed by one of the Adam brothers, and is an imposing document about the size of the hearthrug!

Great interest was aroused in the ornaments and pictures, treasured gifts from many lands. Vases from Siam, inlaid brass from India, a Chinese clock, pictures of Italy and Dantzic, etc., a pair of inlaid bowls (a gift from the King of Siam), were especially admired, and the Patriotic Jug commemorating the suffering of the soldiers in the Crimea, and of their widows and orphans.

From the Drawing-room the Library was entered, where students were at work; from this delightful room a tour of the bedrooms followed. The name of the student's country is printed on her door, and in this way we toured through many countries.

The custom adopted by the students to provide, in national fashion, the furnishings of bedspreads, curtains, cushions, &c., gives a delightful demonstration of international art, stitchery, colour and design.

Then, descending to the dining-room, a very delicious tea was served, when the students intermingling gave interesting accounts of their experiences of this International Course.

After tea followed a visit to the kitchen, where all were introduced to a dinky kitten, a great pet who shall be nameless,

and a pressing invitation from the students to admire their laundry, where they have *carte blanche* to launder any personal garments; their enthusiasm was expressed in a song, composed by a student, and sung with gusto.

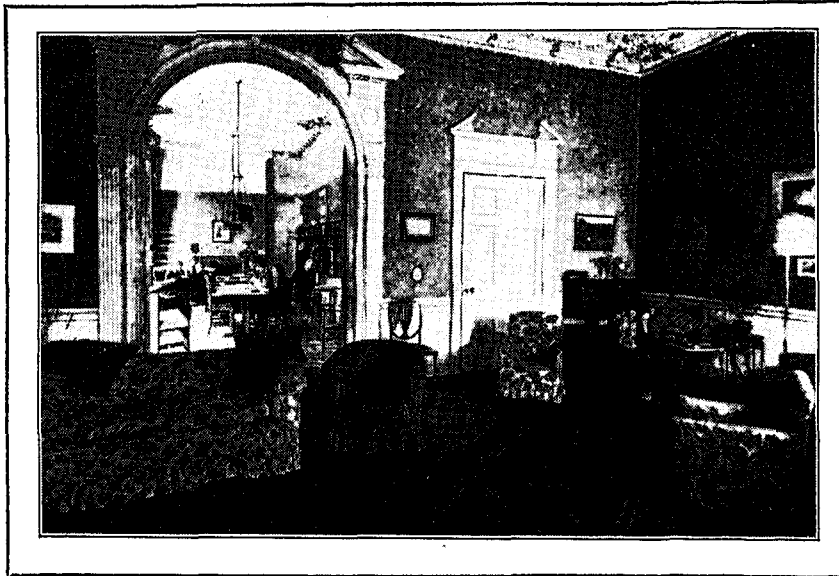
So ended a charming glimpse of the Headquarters of the

Florence Nightingale International Foundation, and the members of the British College of Nurses (who have generously supported our N.C.N. Scholarships) expressed thanks to Miss Dorsey for her kindness and hospitality, who, seconded by students of many lands, had given them such a delightful reception, thus stimulating their admiration for the work accomplished within its handsome portals.

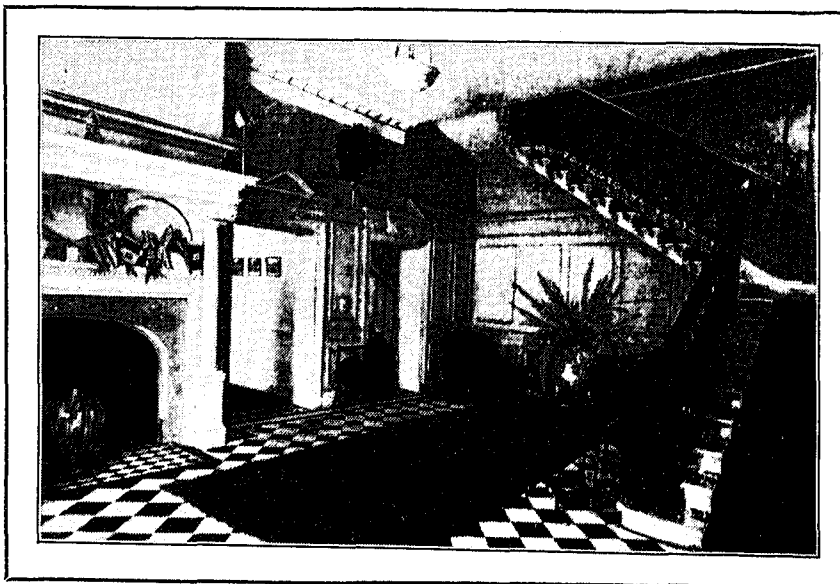
Seeing is believing. I would suggest that groups of nurses should be

received at International House from time to time, so that they may realise the value of this Educational Memorial in extending international understanding.

A. S. B.



The Drawing-room, and Library through arch.



The Entrance Hall and beautiful Staircase at Florence Nightingale International House.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)