

AN ENJOYABLE EVENING AT FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE INTERNATIONAL HOUSE.

On Friday, May 8th, and Saturday, May 9th, at Florence Nightingale International House, 15, Manchester Square, London, W., the Florence Nightingale International Students of the year 1935-1936 presented two excellent plays, the first "The Day's Good Cause" the object being to provide funds to help the "Old Internationals' Association" to defray its working expenses, including the maintenance of its bi-annual journal, and this year to enable an Old International to return to London for a course of post-graduate study; and the second, "The Old Lady Looks Back." The parade of members of the cast in national costumes, before the presentation of Part I, was of great interest, and the dress of Irene Abelgas, the student from the Philippines, was a dream of beauty, carried out in softest flame-coloured satin and golden lace,

entrance hall, all made on the premises, a student from the London Hospital being responsible for the latter.

The part of the programme "The Old Lady Looks Back" was interesting and amusing. The old lady, an "old international," in her sitting-room in the year 1980, represented by Kerstin Bratt, relates experiences of her student days of fifty or more years ago to Alice (Ruth Bridges), a Florence Nightingale student. Then we saw an English-speaking student in her own room endeavouring to write an essay, and despite numerous interruptions from fellow-students wanting to borrow, till the end of the month, twopence to pay for a telephone call, or a shilling for the slot meter, and others endeavouring to explain in English the meaning of the word "fantasy" until each lapses into volubility in her own language. Finally, enters a maid with dustpan and broom and the exasperated student gives up the preparation of her essay in despair.

Yvonne Hentsch (Switzerland),

Irja Pohjala (Finland).

Josephine Manuel (India).



Kerstin Bratt (Sweden);

Kazimiera Laurinaviciute (Lithuania).

Irene Abelgas (The Philippines).

Florence Nightingale International Students in National Costume.

the basis of the latter being thread woven from pine-apple fibre and the stiffening of the epaulette-like sleeves being made from flour obtained from tapioca.

The row of heads in the background are of English, Canadian and American Students, who praised in song the costumes of their colleagues, and lamented that as they had no national dress they were only able to show their faces—they have been aptly dubbed "The Pansies" by their more fortunate colleagues in this particular.

The scene in Miss Pettifer's (Gladys Sharpes) sitting-room, secretary to Lady Entwistle (Mary Flambert), was most amusing, the confusion arising from duplicated engagements resulting in pressing into the service the domestic staff, and drilling them to take part in a play to be produced in twenty-four hours' time.

At the conclusion of Part I, the Warden, Miss Nan Dorsey, invited those present to make a tour of the House, an invitation of which many present availed themselves, as also of a cordial invitation to partake of the delectable soft drinks and enticing sweets of distinction offered in the

A true incident related of a student who had forgotten her latch-key one evening and was on the doorstep in distress, caused much amusement. The house-man on the other side of the street came to the rescue and suggested that he should telephone. On ringing up Florence Nightingale International House he inquired in a somewhat uncertain voice, "Is that Florence Nightingale?" to receive the prompt answer of "Yes" from Miss Dorsey. Amusing also was the scene in the laundry; there being more students desiring to use the wash-tubs, than wash-tubs available, and the drying racks being filled to capacity, a bright student suggested it was a question for the League of Nations. Should the space be allotted in proportion to the size of the country from which the student came, or on the basis of her needs as to lingerie in a foreign country. The pros and cons of the question were eagerly debated and indeed it was an important one to those concerned when time was so precious and there was so much to be done.

At the conclusion of the play there were loud calls for the producer, who received a great ovation, when she appeared at length before the footlights, not least from those students who had obtained a coign of vantage by securing seats on the Adam mantelpiece at the end of the room.

Altogether it was a very enjoyable evening, and both the producer and the actors are greatly to be congratulated on the histrionic ability disclosed in the nurses of many nations, "full of friendship for the world."

THANKSGIVING DAY IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

The *Journal of the Western Australian Nurses* brings news from far away, and the March issue, we are glad to note, is encouraging interest in "Florence Nightingale Thanksgiving Day," so that on May 12th, those of us who celebrated it in London could cast a thought wave to "down under" and unite in a sense of gratitude with members of the W.A. Branch of the A.T.N.A. who aim to provide a Scholarship to send a Western Australian nurse to London to benefit by the teaching at Bedford College.

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