

THE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES TO SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS BY HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUCHESS OF KENT.

The presentation by Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent to the students of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation, who had successfully completed the International Courses held at Bedford College for Women (University of London) in conjunction with the College of Nursing on June 26th, was a most interesting and successful function.

The Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, G.B.E., C.B., LL.B., Treasurer of the Foundation, presided with his usual geniality and irrepressible humour, and those present on the platform included members of the Committee of Management of the F.N.I.F., of the Organisation Committee of Bedford College, and others, amongst them The Lady Mary Hope, in attendance on the Duchess of Kent, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Hon. President, and Dame Alicia Lloyd Still, D.B.E., R.R.C., President F.N.I.F., Miss G. E. M. Jebb, M.A. (Cantab.), Principal of Bedford College, Miss E. M. Musson, C.B.E., R.R.C., LL.D., Chairman of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, Mlle. Mechelynck (Belgium), Miss Daisy Bridges, Sister, St. Thomas's Hospital, Miss D. S. Coode, President of the College of Nursing, Mrs. Cecil Carter, League of Red Cross Societies, Mrs. Rome, British Red Cross Society, Dr. H. L. Eason, C.B., C.M.G., Vice-Chancellor of the University of London, Sir Ernest Graham Little, M.P., Sir Harold Fawcus, Mr. Ernest Swift, Professor Stebbing, Colonel Parkinson, Mrs. Edkins.

Sir Arthur Stanley said that he was particularly glad to greet Her Royal Highness in the name of those present. Many illustrious ladies were present who had taken part in the Presentation of Certificates on previous occasions, but none had been welcomed more gladly and heartily than Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent. She had not been a member of our Royal Family for very long, but she had found her way into the innermost hearts of the people of this country. Sir Arthur expressed to Her Royal Highness the deep gratitude of the authorities, and the students, for the honour she had done them by her presence.

ADDRESSES.

By Miss Daisy Bridges.

The Chairman then called on Miss Daisy Bridges, S.R.N., a Sister at St. Thomas's Hospital, to address those present.

Miss Bridges said that to address the International Students at this farewell gathering was both an honour and a privilege. She would not have the courage to speak at all before such a distinguished audience, did she not know that what she said would be accepted in the spirit in which it was meant, which was one of humility, of sincerity and good comradeship, and that she spoke not only for herself, but on behalf of great numbers of British nurses who would follow closely the record of the future achievements of the students and who wished them well.

Addressing the students, Miss Bridges said that in

these days of unrest here, and of conflict in many countries of the world, it might seem a far-off cry even to speak of peace, and yet she dared to think that peace, should it come, might come to the world through its nurses. If our influence could be made far-reaching enough, if our faith were great enough, she did not think that an impossible ideal.

"You are going back," she said, "to your countries, to your hospitals, to whatever your nursing sphere may be, to attack big problems. But if your problems are great, and although a measure of success may be denied you, it is a well-known and encouraging fact that each successive attempt at solving a problem makes that problem easier of solution, and, through your work and hard-won experiences, those who come after will stand a better chance.

"And as it has more than once happened in the history of a country, so it may happen in the history of nursing, that the very magnitude of the difficulty you may meet will provide the inspiration needed to surmount it.

"We thank you for the contribution that each one of you has made to British nursing, by your belief in it, and by your spirit of friendship, of receptiveness and co-operation, and from our hearts we wish you God speed!"

By Miss G. E. M. Jebb, M.A. (Cantab).

The Chairman then invited Miss Jebb to address the meeting, saying that he need not introduce to this assembly at Bedford College their much-honoured and beloved Principal, Miss Jebb.

Miss Jebb said that it was always her very pleasant task on these occasions to welcome the distinguished company. A special lustre was added to this occasion by the presence of Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, and she had great pleasure in giving her a special welcome. She then welcomed individually Sir Arthur Stanley, saying that this particular party would lose its flavour without him, Mr. Eason, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of London, Sir Ernest Graham Little, member of the Senate and Member of Parliament, members of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation, and of the Organisation Committee of Bedford College. The parent school was represented in the person of Mr. Swift, and the International Council of Nurses by its founder, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, the Florence Nightingale International Foundation was represented by Dame Alicia Lloyd Still, the College of Nursing by Miss D. S. Coode, and Bedford College by many of its teachers.

Then as to the group of students, there were twelve from Great Britain and the British Dominions and six from foreign countries. That was a pretty international collection, but not quite so international as it had sometimes been. It was rather a higher percentage than usual of English-speaking nurses. We did not want fewer of the latter, but we did want more from foreign countries.

Miss Jebb stated that another feature of the Course was that a much larger number of students were taking that for Nurse Administrators than for Public Health, the original Course, and one had carved out a place for herself and taken a Special Course, writing a thesis on the History of Nursing.

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