

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION.

Florence Nightingale International House, 15, Manchester Square, London, looks lovely after three coats of paint and other renovations. Its fine exterior is now fit to face the world in general; and, in passing, note the beautiful doors of fine moulding, wrought iron work and glass transparencies. The trees in the Square Garden will soon put forth their lacy leaves of tender green, a refreshing sight from the windows of Nightingale House—especially in this, our London, where many mean streets yet remain to be swept away.

The *News Bulletin* contains several items of interest, in referring to this session's students. It is reported that Miss Virginia Dunbar, from the United States, had already covered much of the subject matter offered by the Courses. She is an experienced nurse and holds a Master's Degree from Teachers' College, Columbia University. At her special request, she is taking certain subjects in the Public Health Course and has been granted permission to make a special study of the early history of two London training schools for nurses. She hopes to be able to write a thesis on the subject during the year. In the future we shall no doubt see the Courses extended in various directions.

Some charming gifts have been sent to decorate Florence Nightingale House. Two etchings of winter scenes in Finland, by Madame de Gripenberg, wife of the Finnish Minister in London; a beautiful panel of Copenhagen pottery, which depicts Florence Nightingale in the wards of the hospital at Scutari, this panel was designed by a Danish nurse, H. Fugaard, and is the gift of the Danish Council of Nurses (an early Member Association of the International Council of Nurses); and a statuette of Florence Nightingale, after C. Knoblock, 1912, on an ebony stand, a gift from Dame Alicia Lloyd Still. A picture of this charming statuette appeared in our last issue.

The various Committees in connection with the Foundation have recently met and transacted business. The one most important question under discussion is finance. Scholarships are arousing interest in many lands, and already half of those required for next session have been promised, but the Endowment Fund is still in urgent need of support.

THE NATIONAL FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEMORIAL COMMITTEE OF GREAT BRITAIN.

The National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of Great Britain presented a satisfactory report at the recent meeting of the Executive Committee. It has always realised that it must take a degree of responsibility in raising funds and is contemplating making an Appeal in the autumn.

In *The South African Nursing Journal* Mrs. K. C. Wright has an inspiring article in which she writes: "The Florence Nightingale Foundation forms the first comprehensive Memorial to a woman whose name stands out among the Great Ones of the earth. . . . By such a Memorial as this, the life and work of Florence Nightingale will be kept alive."

HEARTFELT SYMPATHY OF THE NURSES OF FRANCE.

L'Infirmière Française the official organ of the Association Nationale Des Infirmières Diplômées de l'Etat Français, contains the following most kind reference to the death of King George the Fifth, by the President Mlle. L. Chaptal:

"It has not been possible for us until now, to speak in this paper of the late George V, who died on January 20th. Our faithful friends, the nurses of England are mourning their beloved King and Emperor and we must now tell them that the nurses of France have been with them in those sad circumstances. King George was really the father of his people. Those who could listen on the radio to the magnificent ceremony of his funerals felt all through their pomp and solemnity the deep and real sorrow of the innumerable assembled crowd. We can truly say that the whole of the British Empire was one at this moment.

King George has attained this universal popularity without seeking for it. As was said after his death: "He dedicated himself to the service of his people. They felt he was the essential Englishman. He set a constant example of simplicity of life amid regal state, and of devotion to the public service. He gained first their respect and then their affection so that at the end he could speak in the language of a father to his people"

To the President of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, to all the members of that Sister Association, we wish to express the heartfelt sympathy of the nurses of France."

RIDDELL HOUSE.

The ceremony of laying the foundation stone of Riddell House—the Preliminary Training School and Nurses' Residence, presented to St. Thomas's Hospital by Lady Riddell, in memory of her husband, the late Lord Riddell—was performed by her on March 20th, after it had been blessed by Dr. Lang, Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Archbishop, and Lady Riddell were received by the Treasurer, Sir Arthur Stanley, Dame Alicia Lloyd Still, Matron of the Hospital, and Superintendent of the Nightingale Training School, the Rev. Raymond B. Cornish, hospitalier, Sir Edwin Cooper the architect, and others.

When the stone was laid in position by Lady Riddell, she placed beneath it a bronze casket containing the history of the hospital, some silver and gold pieces, and newspapers of the day.

The stone bears the inscription: "This stone was blessed by his Grace the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury and laid by Lady Riddell, the donor of the building, on the 20th day of March, 1936."

The principal entrance to Riddell House is in Lambeth Palace Road. It will have seven floors and, in addition to the rooms set apart for the Preliminary Training School, it will have 57 bed-sitting rooms for Sisters and Charge Nurses of special departments, and 112 bedrooms for staff nurses. The top floor will give access to an open-air lounge and on the lower ground floor will be a swimming bath.

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