

Years ago we proposed to form the Elizabeth Fry League of Nurses of those working in or sincerely interested in Prisons and Prisoners in England. As soon as time permits, might we not, in memory of Beatrice Kent, so recently lost to us, organise such a League? Nothing would have given her greater joy than to see such a League materialise, and federated in our National Council, take its part in Prison Reform plans.

The Duchess of Kent will visit Lowestoft on July 8th to lay the foundation-stone of the new nurses' hostel of the Lowestoft and North Suffolk Hospital. The building, which is being erected as the town's memorial to King George V, is estimated to cost about £11,000.

We note in a short report of the Annual Conference of the Association of Head Mistresses held recently at the Dome, Brighton, at which Miss E. R. Gwatkin (Streatham Hill High School), president, presided, that Miss E. A. Jones, in moving the adoption of the annual report, said that a conference between representatives of the association and matrons of the principal hospitals in the country took place in February. The association pressed for a clearer demarcation between the essential discipline of what must always be an exacting training and the out-of-date restrictions which deterred girls from entering the nursing profession. It was encouraging to find more readiness than they had expected to consider their point of view. Many difficulties of mutual misunderstanding and distrust had been partially, if not completely, demolished.

This is satisfactory, as Miss Gwatkin, who is a member of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, has persistently supported the *Lancet* Commission policy of demolishing the one portal to the Register—a fundamental principle in its educational system which the large majority of the experienced nurse members of the Council strongly approve.

Let us hope the Association of Head Mistresses will in the future carefully consider the opinion of the Registered Nurses themselves before presuming to govern them by defining their educational curriculum and standards of discipline.

The Trades' Union Congress, a large and powerful body mostly composed of men, including a large membership of male mental nurses, are to make a new attempt at trade union organisation among nurses in hospitals and other institutions.

An advisory committee has been appointed to consider the working conditions of trained nurses and nurses in training and the possibility of their absorption in existing trade unions or the setting up of a new union to cover their profession. It is estimated that 100,000 nurses are involved.

Among the unions represented on the committee are the—

Women's Public Health Officers' Association.

Mental Hospital and Institutional Workers' Union.

Mr. George Gibson, a member of the T.U.C. General Council and general secretary of the Mental Hospital and Institutional Workers' Union, is chairman of the committee.

The aim is the establishment of a new trade union for the nursing profession.

It will be remembered that a few years ago Mr. George Gibson was an ardent supporter of Mr. J. Batey's Bill to include a further 20,000 women nurses on the Register of Nurses without examination—a Bill which was strongly opposed by the thousands of nurses who had complied with the provisions of the Nurses' Registration Act and passed the prescribed examinations.

THE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION.

The Third Ordinary General Meeting of the Grand Council of the Foundation was summoned to meet on Tuesday, July 6th, on Wednesday, July 7th, on Thursday, July 8th, and on Friday, July 9th, at the headquarters of the British Red Cross Society, 14, Grosvenor Crescent, S.W.1, at 10.30 a.m., when a considerable amount of business is on the Agenda for discussion.

On Monday, July 5th, a Reception of delegates was held at Florence Nightingale International House, 15 Manchester Square, W.1, at 8.30 p.m.

The College of Nursing gave tea on Tuesday, July 6th.

On Wednesday, July 7th the Red Cross International Bazaar, to which the Nurses' National Organisations have contributed liberally, in aid of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation, will be opened by the Lady Mayoress at 12 noon in the Central Hall, Westminster, and will remain open on Thursday, July 8th. The Countess Granville is the Chairman of the Committee, and the Band of the Royal Army Medical Corps will play. The Duchess of Kent will visit the Bazaar on the afternoon of the opening day.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES TO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS.

The annual ceremony of the Presentation of Certificates to the International Students who have completed their year's study at Bedford College will be held at the College on July 8th at 3 p.m., when the following students will receive Certificates:—

Miss Majsa Andrell, Sweden; Miss Katy Blagoeva, Bulgaria; Miss D. C. Bridges, Great Britain; Miss Saman Bunyavitr, Siam; Miss Ludmila Fantova, Czechoslovakia; Miss Maja E. Foget, Denmark; Miss Karin Gadd, Finland; Miss Ingeborg Hantsch, Austria; Miss Nellie Edna Howey, Canada; Miss Audrey L. Iorns, New Zealand; Miss Borghild Kessell, Norway; Miss Emily H. de Klerk, South Africa; Miss K. Mary Perkins, Great Britain; Miss Catherine F. Russell, Irish Free State; Miss C. Elizabeth Sage, Canada; Miss Mary P. Welch, Great Britain; Miss Sadie A. Williams, Canada; Miss Lulu Kathryn Wolf, United States of America.

Sir Arthur Stanley, G.B.E., C.B., LL.D., Treasurer of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation, will be in the Chair. Addresses will be given by Mrs. Cecil Carter, R.R.C. and Miss G. E. M. Jebb, M.A. Cantab. The Presentation of Certificates and Address will be made by Dr. Alma Sundquist of Sweden, and the Votes of Thanks proposed by students—Miss Borghild Kessell, Norway, and Miss C. Elizabeth Sage, Canada. A Reception of friends of the movement will be held after the ceremony.

On Friday, July 9th, a Reception will be held at 2.30 p.m. by the Principal of the University of London, H. L. Eason, Esq., C.B., C.M.G., M.D., and a tour made of the new administrative buildings.

At 3.30 p.m. there will be a Reception by Dr. H. B. Newham, C.M.G., M.B., on behalf of the Dean, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and a tour will be made of the building. Tea.

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