

concerned with health. It is believed that scholarships for this purpose will be readily available.

Finance is, of course, of the utmost importance. The present income from the Endowment of the F.N.I.F. only amounts to £536 per year, which represents the interest on £15,000. This, together with the accumulated reserve, is stated to be sufficient on the present basis for a further three years, the annual expenditure being £800. This makes no allowance for salary of secretary or for expansion of the work. A further sum of £1,000 per year is needed. This represents an income on £30,000 to £35,000, which to the £15,000 already invested would make a total of £30,000, the *minimum* capital sum on which the Foundation can be maintained on a modest scale.

The capital sum contemplated by the Foundation at its inauguration in 1934 was £200,000. Owing to depreciation this would now have to be increased 50 per cent. to make provision for the endowment of the administrative centre in London and the expansion of the work of the Foundation in such a way and on such a scale that would be a fitting memorial to the woman whom it is designed to honour.

1912.

But there is more than practical organisation and cash in the evolution of a memorial in honour of the greatest woman administrator and teacher in this or any other age. Practical application is not sufficient. Spirit and Soul must inspire a memorial to Florence Nightingale. Without divine afflatus we remain earth-bound, perpetually sterile—upwards of 30 years have passed since "Cologne, 1912." Let us refresh our memories by re-reading the Report of the inspired words poured forth by those present from many lands, which we reprint on another page, and let our aim be the inspiration of the Foundation by the Spirit of Florence Nightingale. The Foundation will then attain a power which so far it has lacked.

OUR OPINION.

There need be no difficulty about financial support whatever if in future the Florence Nightingale International Foundation adopts a policy worthy of its name, which it has not done in the past.

No need to worry about finance. We note a method by which, with a little organisation, coffers would be overflowing with cash in support of the health and happiness of the world.

When agreed by the International Council of Nurses at Cologne in 1912, it had no mean policy. It was ardently hoped its scope would be worthy of the greatest woman administrator of modern times. It has done no such thing. Its basic policy has in no sense been international. To teach a few girls from foreign lands a smattering of nursing—a kindly well meant effort—has not touched the basic principles on which the Foundation should have been organised. To be worthy of association with the honoured name of this supreme genius the basic principle of the Foundation is quite simple. *Its aim is the evolution of international health founded on moral and physical law*, and now is the psychological moment for the teaching of its gospel, when the whole world is in need of light.

HOSPITAL MATRONS IN THE LIMELIGHT.

The invaluable work of Hospital Matrons has recently been in the limelight, and no wonder. No group of workers has been more perturbed than that of women in charge of hospital nursing, owing to the shortage of nursing and domestic workers.

One matron informs us that she has been helping to cook for 1,200 persons; another that she gets up at 5 o'clock in the morning and does three hours' scrubbing and cleaning before attending to her official duties; then a third takes the querulous children to sleep in her bedroom; a fourth has been bombed out of house and home and is still shattered with grief at the loss of pupils and patients. This story might continue *ad infinitum*.

MINISTER OF HEALTH

TRIBUTE TO HOSPITAL MATRONS.

The Minister of Health, Mr. Willink, addressing the Association of Hospital Matrons in London on Saturday, February 24th, paid a tribute to the part Matrons have played in the war-time hospital arrangements.

"No small part of the success of those arrangements is due to the magnificent response of the Matrons to the many demands made upon them," he said. "In the face of all the difficulties encountered, the duty of providing patients—many of them Service patients—with the best possible nursing care and attention and of maintaining the standard of training of student nurses has still devolved upon the Matrons. My Department has received many letters of gratitude which show how well that duty has been carried out.

"The war has made a vastly increased demand for nurses for all types of nursing. Fortunately, the creation of the Civil Nursing Reserve, which recently celebrated its sixth birthday, helped fill some of the gaps. How much members of the Reserve have liked their work is shown by the fact that some thousands of Nursing Auxiliaries have decided to become student nurses and make nursing their career."

In tackling the problem of the shortage of nurses there was close co-operation between himself and the Minister of Labour and National Service. One reason why it had been decided that newly qualified nurses should spend their first year after qualification in one of the fields of special shortage, such as the T.B. service or midwifery, was that there were not nearly enough nurses to go round. So those available had to be distributed more evenly.

Referring to the T.B. service, Mr. Willink said: "The waiting lists of patients have grown longer and may grow longer still as new cases are discovered through mass radiography and more ex-Servicemen and women are admitted to sanatoria. Yet there are beds available which could be used if more staff could be found. One reason for the difficulty of finding staff seems to be that nurses and their parents are sometimes apprehensive about work in sanatoria. Matrons can do much to reassure them and to explain not only how important and interesting the work is, but also that there is no evidence that it exposes nurses to any greater risk of infection than nursing in a general hospital."

Regarding the future, Mr. Willink said that nurses would play an important part in the National Health

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