

### A NEW STRUGGLE FOR LIBERTY.

We have received further information concerning the aims of a new organisation of Nurses.

Nurses hope to organise, as they find—so they say—that at present the rank and file of nurses have, in reality, little power of expression to help attain reforms they advocate.

The following handbill has been drafted. We gather that as the Matrons have an organisation composed of some 2,000 members, these nurses feel they should also have an independent voice in the organisation of their working lives.

#### THE BRITISH NURSES' SOCIETY.

The following is the list of questions and aims of the new organisation.

ARE you satisfied with the present conditions offered to you?

CAN you name any existing organisation, exclusively for Nurses, with a progressive policy?

ARE you interested in a new Nurses' Society with progressive aims?

LOOK to your interest by becoming associated with us. LIVE under conditions that compare favourably with other professions.

THE BRITISH NURSES' SOCIETY is organised and governed by Nurses—for Nurses.

ORGANISATION is the only solution to all Nursing problems.

NEVER was the time more opportune!

UNLESS Nurses organise and so help to prevent further deterioration in their profession by demanding reforms now, thereby encouraging intelligent and ambitious persons to become Nurses, the present chaotic conditions will increase.

REALISE your aims through the B.N.S.

SUPPORT us by your active co-operation at all times.

ENROL now, and encourage others to do so.

SIX Point Policy:—

To ensure the highest possible well-being of the patient through the relative well-being of the Nurse. This we feel to be impracticable until certain changes have been instituted in the Nursing Service. Among these are:—

- (1) Introduction of the Eight-Hour Three-Shift System.
- (2) General increase in pay with equality of remuneration for the sexes.
- (3) Compulsory retirement at the maximum age of fifty-five on adequate pension.
- (4) Reorganisation of the system of training for Nurses.
- (5) Non-residence for all if desired. Abolition of the present system of Nurses' Homes, and the substitution of Hostels, outside the precincts of the Hospital, under the supervision of a Warden.
- (6) Nursing duties only. The duties of a Nurse to be defined by statutory authority.

We are informed that the group of organisers of the new Society include the four Sisters who called on the present Minister of Health some weeks ago and were kindly received by him, and their opinions noted. It is to be hoped that the promoters of new conditions may receive the same consideration from their own profession.

### FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION.

(INAUGURATED 1934.)

#### Grand Council.

The Fifth Ordinary General Meeting of the Grand Council will be held on September 11th, 12th and 13th next. The preliminary notice was sent out on March 11th, and it will be followed by the final notice convening the meeting and the agenda and reports on July 11th, 1946.

#### Committee of Management.

The next meeting of this Committee will be held on May 31st, 1946, at 10.30 a.m. Major-General Hawes, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Secretary General of the B.R.C.S., has been nominated by the B.R.C.S. as the second representative of that Society on the Committee of Management.

#### British Red Cross Society.

The Foundation owes a very real debt of gratitude to the British Red Cross Society, which has recently made a grant of £500 for three years (1946—1948) to assist the Foundation to carry on its educational work during the post-war period. By 1948 the National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committees will have had time to become re-organised and firmly established, and will then be able to undertake the full responsibility of completing the Endowment Fund.

#### National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committees.

AUSTRALIA. News has reached headquarters that a National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of Australia will shortly be formed through the collaboration of the Australian Federation of Trained Nurses and the Australian Red Cross. Since the inauguration of the Foundation it has collaborated with F.N.I.F. Committees in Western Australia, Southern Australia and Victoria, all of which have shown great interest in the Foundation and worked to further its objects.

The Australian Red Cross has made available six scholarships for Australian Nurses from each State; to be held in London, for the Session 1946—1947. The Victorian Committee (F.N.I.F.) has made available two scholarships for Australian Nurses from Victoria.

GREAT BRITAIN.—The N.F.N.M. Committee of Great Britain held its first meeting since 1939 at 14, Grosvenor Crescent. Dame Ellen Musson, D.B.E., R.R.C., LL.D., took the chair in the absence of Sir Arthur Stanley. The B.R.C.S. was represented by Dame Emily Blair, D.B.E., R.R.C., Dame Beryl Oliver, D.B.E., R.R.C., Lady Spens, Mrs. Prentice. The National Council of Nurses of Great Britain was represented by Dame Ellen Musson (in the chair), Miss Coode, O.B.E., Miss Helen Dey, R.R.C., Miss Hillyers, O.B.E., and Miss Merry. Miss Hillyers was appointed Hon. Secretary.

The British Red Cross has confirmed the validity of the scholarship awarded to Miss Rees (Great Britain) in 1939 for the International Course at Bedford College and the Royal College of Nursing. Miss Rees, who has been on active service, has recently been demobilised, and will avail herself of the scholarship during the Session 1946—1947.

The British Red Cross Society has awarded a further scholarship to a British Nurse, Miss Stephenson, who will take an advanced course in Public Health Nursing at Toronto University School of Nursing during the Session 1946—1947.

The British Red Cross Society has also granted two scholarships of £350 each to two Greek Nurses to be selected by the F.N.F.N. Committee of Greece.

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