

1960

LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES

Meeting of the Executive Committee

April 25, 1932

The Executive Committee,

has taken cognizance with interest of the proposal of the International Council of Nurses to establish an International Florence Nightingale Memorial Foundation in London, taking as basis the International Nursing Courses instituted by the League. It is observed with satisfaction that the realization of this plan would ensure the continuance of the courses on a permanent footing and the development of similar facilities to enable highly qualified nurses to improve their knowledge.

The Executive Committee,

- (a) approves the steps taken by the Secretariat to ensure, thanks to the generosity of the American Red Cross, the continuance of the courses until July 1933, and to terminate the financial responsibility of the League in this connexion at that date;
- (b) authorizes the Secretary General to inform the International Council of Nurses that the League fully associates itself with the Council's plan, and will be glad to co-operate in putting it into effect. The Secretariat is instructed to negotiate with the representatives of the proposed foundation as soon as it comes into being, with a view to the transfer of the courses to the authorities which will direct them in the future;
- (c) expresses the hope that national Societies for their part will be willing to co-operate to the best of their power in the realization of the plan.

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Note on Question 12 on the Agenda.

(London Nursing Courses. - Action taken in conformity with Executive Committee's instructions).

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The International Nursing Courses  
and  
The International Florence Nightingale Memorial.

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Since the meeting of the Executive Committee in October, 1931, the League has continued its efforts to obtain funds for the continuation of the International Nursing Courses. Mrs. Belmont, a member of the Central Committee of the American Red Cross, has unsparingly devoted herself to obtaining funds in the United States. Through her interest, the Carnegie Corporation in New York recently voted a contribution of \$3750 a year for five years, and Mrs. Davison, also member of the Central Committee of the American Red Cross, has promised \$1000. These grants were made on the understanding that the remainder of the sum required to continue the courses for five years would be obtainable from other sources.

International Florence Nightingale Memorial.

A proposal to found a permanent International Memorial to Florence Nightingale was adopted by the International Council of Nurses at a meeting in Cologne in 1912.

Owing to the war, no action was taken to carry out the proposal in a practical manner until a meeting of the Board of Directors which took place in Geneva in June, 1931. At this meeting, the following recommendation was adopted:

"that the Foundation should be in London, that it should be of an international character, and a living memorial, not a museum. The suggestion which appeals most to the Directors assembled in Geneva is that the memorial should take the form of an endowed foundation for post-graduate nursing education."

As the League has already in London the nucleus of such a foundation, Sir Arthur Stanley communicated with Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, the Chairman of the International Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee in London, with a view to bringing about a close collaboration of the two bodies interested in such a scheme. In view of Sir Arthur Stanley's keen interest and his belief that the scheme would be successful, the Chairman, Judge Payne, authorized the continuation of the International Courses for a further year until July 1933 when the situation with regard to the scheme would be clearer.

The outline of this scheme approved by Mlle. Chaptal, President of the International Council of Nurses, is laid before the members of the Executive Committee for their consideration in the following memorandum:

"A Committee, comprising representatives of the League of Red Cross Societies, the International Council of Nurses, the College of Nursing and Bedford College, has held a number of informal meetings under the chairmanship of the Honorable Sir Arthur Stanley, to consider the practical problems arising out of the proposal to constitute a Florence Nightingale Foundation, using as a basis the post-graduate courses for nurses in London, at present conducted by the League.

"The Committee desires to place the following recommendations on record, as summarising the conclusions to which its discussions seem to point:

"1. Foundation. - It is contemplated that the Florence Nightingale Memorial Foundation should be an autonomous body constituted under English law, and governed by a Grand Council comprising five representatives of the International Council of Nurses, five representatives of the League of Red Cross Societies, and two representatives of the National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of each participating country. The Grand Council will be responsible for the policy of the Foundation, and between its meetings will delegate its powers to a committee of management, elected by the Council. It is suggested that the Committee of Management should comprise three representatives of the International Council of Nurses, three representatives of the League of Red Cross Societies, two representatives of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, two representatives of the British Red Cross Society, one representative of Bedford College, and one representative of the College of Nursing. Sub-Committees may be constituted by decision of the Committee of Management with power to co-opt.

"2. Purpose. - The purpose of the Foundation will be the maintenance and development of facilities for post-graduate training for selected nurses from all countries, taking as basis the international courses in London, now administered by the League of Red Cross Societies.

"3. Finances. - The financial resources at the disposal of the Grand Council will be constituted:

- a) by the capital sum subscribed through the efforts of the national Florence Nightingale Memorial Committees. It is considered that the amount required for the full and permanent endowment of the scheme, including provision of at least twenty scholarships annually, would be £ 200,000;
- b) pending complete endowment of the scheme by the annual payments provided by organisations or individuals in each country. It is proposed that, in addition to such contributions as they are able to secure for the capital fund, each national F.N. M.C. should endeavour to provide one or more scholarships, for a minimum period of ten years.

"The practicability of the scheme will depend on the amount of the contributions obtained or promised by January 1st, 1933. It is hoped that every effort will be made by the National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committees to report by that date pledges representing a capital fund of at least £ 40,000, in addition to annual scholarships amounting to not less than £ 5,000 a year for the coming ten years.

"4. Procedure. - If this scheme commends itself to the International Council of Nurses, it is hoped that the I.C.N. will formally communicate it to the League before the meeting of the League's Executive Committee on April 25th. If the Executive Committee of the League, in its turn, endorses the project, and signifies its willingness to co-operate in its realization, it is suggested:

"that the I.C.N. should circularize the national Councils of Nurses which are members of the International Council, urging them to take the initiative in promoting the constitution of national Florence Nightingale Memorial Committees at the earliest practicable date;

"that the League of Red Cross Societies should simultaneously circularize the national Red Cross Societies in the countries where national Councils of Nurses, affiliated to the I.C.N., exist, inviting each of them to co-operate with the corresponding national Council of Nurses in promoting the constitution of the Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee.

"Each national Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee, when constituted, should remain in permanent contact with the International Council of Nurses which, in conjunction with the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross Societies, should undertake to provide them with the necessary data to furnish the basis for the national appeal. The lines upon which the Appeal should be issued, the organizations and individuals to be approached, the set-up of the national Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee, and the character of the co-operation to be given to that committee by the Red Cross, will necessarily vary from one country to another, so that only facts regarding the present character of the Courses and the proposed activities of the projected Foundation can usefully be furnished from the international centres. The national bodies will be alone able to judge of the kind of organization and method of appeal most suitable to their respective national conditions."