

*Folder  
for Nightingale  
Memorial*

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## A Ceremony and its Significance

"OUR only regret is that we did not charge a shilling instead of sixpence for disclosing the future, but we feel that our worries and efforts have been well repaid," say the members of the Student Nurses' Association of Liverpool Royal Infirmary when writing to tell us that by means of their bazaar last month they are able to hand over £50 to the Florence Nightingale International Memorial—any odd change, we notice, to come the way of the Nation's Fund for Nurses.

Well done, student nurses! We only wish you could be present on Certificate Day at Bedford College this week, when the 1932-33 international courses carried out by that college and our College of Nursing come to an end.

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This, of course, is the international work which it is proposed to continue as the memorial from the world's nurses to Florence Nightingale, and Certificate Day is always something of an occasion—beautiful halls, beautiful gardens, academic robes, important personages making speeches. Last year the guest of honour was the Duchess of Atholl; this year it is the president of the Czecho-Slovak Red Cross Society. On such occasions the principal of Bedford College and the chairman of the College of Nursing seem to vie with each other as to who should say the most delightful and apposite thing, and often some "old international" from a distant country, her English as good as ever, will tell us what it has meant to her to go back home and work out her own schemes on the foundations laid in London. Always, too, we have a sprinkling of little addresses from students of the year—say a Finn, an Italian, an English or Scottish woman and a Siamese—and in the evening there is a celebration dinner.

Naturally we as College members are not a little proud that the international work in which we have been engaged is to receive such world-wide recognition, but this work has stood the test of time for thirteen years now, and not only can the total of 221 international students all claim the College Education Department as an important factor in their training, but the Department has also, in collaboration with Miss Reimann, the secretary of the International Council of Nurses, arranged innumerable short courses of experience in English hospitals for other foreign nurses as well. In fact, although the College was not actually affiliated to the International Council till 1925, it has played a considerable part in international affairs ever since, in 1920, it became the official representative of the British Red Cross in nursing matters to the League of Red Cross Societies.

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The idea of grouping together the efforts of all the Red Cross organisations of the world after the War and directing their energies to the promotion of world health and the well-being of their respective communities came to an official of the War Council of the American Red Cross, Mr. Henry P. Davison, who won support for his scheme first from President Wilson, and then from Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan. The five governments concerned suggested to their respective Red Cross Societies that they should continue their work on these lines; other nations followed their example and thus the League of Red Cross Societies came into being.

In 1920 the League started its nursing division under the supervision of an American nurse, Miss Alice Fitzgerald, assisted by a very well known College member, Miss Cowlin, who afterwards became editor of *The Nursing Times* and is now

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our College librarian and honorary secretary of the College Private Nurses' Committee. The League soon came to the conclusion that nurses from all over the world should have a definite post-graduate course of studies which would enable them to learn something of world conditions of health and disease and to observe the methods employed in other countries. England was chosen as the pioneer centre for such a course because it was conveniently situated in relation to other European countries, and the College of Nursing was asked to represent the British Red Cross on matters connected with its development and any other nursing matters upon which the League of Red Cross Societies wanted assistance.

\* \* \*

The League was specially anxious that the training course should be under the aegis of a university and be of a public health character, and as the College of Nursing had been co-operating with King's College for Women (University of London) since 1918 in a course for sister-tutors, Dr. Lane Claypon, principal of King's College for Women, was asked if this first international course of training might be conducted there.

\* \* \*

The first students of the League worked at King's College from 1920 to 1921, but after that King's College discontinued its training for all public health work and the course was transferred to Bedford College, under the principal, Miss Tuke. The College of Nursing continued to work with the university authorities in the arrangement of the students' practical work in different hospitals and in 1921 the League asked it to arrange a definite course of lectures suitable for the international students, which was carried out at St. Thomas's Hospital.

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In 1923 a Joint Committee of representatives of the League of Red Cross Societies, Bedford College and the College of Nursing was formed—Miss Rundle, our own College secretary, acted as joint secretary of this Committee—to consider the curriculum of a new international course for nurse administrators and teachers in schools of nursing, as many nurses wanted to continue hospital work in their different countries.

These two courses are still being conducted at Bedford College and the College of Nursing, and it is these which, it is hoped, will be continued and developed as the memorial of the world's nurses to the greatest nurse of all.

So you see, student nurses, your £50 is going to help perpetuate not only a fine piece of international work but one which your own College helped to start thirteen years ago, and which it has faithfully carried on ever since.

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## Editorial Notes

### *An International Award*

It is with the greatest pleasure that we are able to announce that Miss Lloyd Still, matron of St. Thomas's Hospital, founder and president of the Nightingale Fellowship and a nominated president of the International Council of Nurses, has been awarded the International Florence Nightingale medal. Six of these medals are awarded annually by the League of Red Cross Societies to nurses who have done eminent work in war or peace.

### *Relaxation*

SANDWICHED between two weeks of strenuous intellectual fare the reception, on Saturday, June 17, held by the Council of the College of Nursing for the nurses attending the Special Course in Public Health and General Nursing, came as a welcome relaxation. Aids to a most successful evening were well-chosen musical items, delightful flowers, delicious refreshments and last but not least the gracious welcome of the president, Mrs. Rome. Animated conversations which were taking place all over the hall ceased only when Miss Doris Burr sang and Miss Winifred Angold played the piano. The latter honoured us by playing one of her own compositions; this was its first public performance. In addition to members of the Council Miss Rundle, the secretary, and Miss Cowlin, we noticed Miss Dorsey, superintendent of the international courses at 15, Manchester Square, with some of the students, including one from Iceland; Dr. Brincker, principal medical officer to the L.C.C., and Mrs. Brincker; Miss Sparshott, our late president; Miss Alexander, nursing editor of the *South African Nursing Record* and president of the South African T.N.A.; Miss Logan, late matron, Cook's