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An International Movement.

One of the largest and most interesting of this busy season's functions will be the fancy-dress ball on May 6 at the Albert Hall, in aid of the Florence Nightingale international

foundation for the training in England of nurses from all over the world. The Duchess of Devonshire is chairman of the Appeal Committee, which hopes in time to raise £40,000 to maintain existing scholarships and another £200,000 to establish and endow a foundation and memorial. Committees have been formed in more than twenty countries to collect funds, under the joint initiative of Red Cross societies and nursing organisations. Courses of post-graduate study have been for some time established at Bedford College, and 259 students, from forty-three countries, have already completed their training in England and returned home to fill positions of professional responsibility. Headquarters will be the "Florence Nightingale International House" in Manchester Square; and a selected group of fully-trained nurses drawn from those in the forefront of their profession all over the world will be eligible for special nursing education there. Thus by a great international movement it is hoped to raise a permanent and living memorial to Florence Nightingale.

Jubilee Fashions.

What should make the ball a particularly amusing affair is the choice of fashions open to those attending. One should have great fun studying fashion-papers of the last twenty-five years and deciding whether to go Merry Widow about the head or hobble about the feet, whether the knee-revealing Charleston skirts will be more becoming than the swathed panniers of 1912. Sir John Lavery is designing a special setting for the hall, and a series of processions is planned, under very distinguished patronage. The Dominions will be completely represented, and other countries organising their own processions include Austria, China, Estonia, Germany, Italy, Japan, Switzerland, Portugal and Spain. The Duchess of Atholl will be responsible for the Scottish procession, and the Duchess of Abercorn for the Northern Irish one. The Empire processions are under the direction of their respective High Commissioners; and the foreign ones of the Ambassadors and Ministers concerned. It should certainly be a sight worth seeing, for a big ball at the Albert Hall always is, and this will be specially well done. The first issue of tickets is at two guineas, but the price may go up later.

TRAINING OF NURSES. — FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEMORIAL. — POST-GRADUATE COURSES.

The Jubilee commemoration ball, which is to take place at the Royal Albert Hall on July 9, has for its president Princess Alice Countess of Athlone, and is being promoted by the National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of Great Britain in aid of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation for the training of nurses in England from all parts of the world.

This training is a post-graduate one, and is intended for nurses who desire to take up responsible posts in their own countries connected with hospital administration, public health work, or the social sciences. Courses in such work were established by the League of the Red Cross Societies in collaboration with Bedford College for Women and the College of Nursing as far back as 1920. Owing to lack of funds there was difficulty in continuing them, and in 1932 the International Council of Nurses joined with the League in order to carry on the work. The Florence Nightingale International Foundation is the outcome of this co-operation, and the work that it has set itself to do—of carrying on and extending the work begun by the League—is to be the memorial to the woman who did so much to raise the standard of nursing—a memorial after her own heart.

SEVENTEEN COUNTRIES.

Already there are committees in seventeen different countries working for this memorial, although its nature was only decided upon last July. By next July they hope to have £40,000—the sum required to put the International Courses on a firm financial basis. The ultimate sum aimed at is £200,000, which will not only allow of the work being considerably extended but will provide for a certain number of scholarships for selected students.

The headquarters of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation are in Manchester-square, W., in a delightful old house, product of the Adam brothers' genius. It is a League of Nations in miniature. Flags of all nations greet the visitor in the spacious hall, and it is for the flag of her own country that each new student first seeks.

In a tour of the bedrooms the visitor steps in a trice from Finland to Czechoslovakia, and from Yugo-Slavia to Siam, for each room reveals its national character in its hand-worked decorations—cushions, curtains, hangings, or carved ornaments.

At the present time the students are on vacation, but most of them are taking a "busman's holiday" studying the nursing work of other countries.

Since its inception 259 students from 43 countries have taken the post-graduate courses. Turkey this year has sent its first student.

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