

1968

19th October 1929.

Dear Mrs. Carter,

I enclose my report with apologies for the delay in sending it. Pressure of work is my excuse. Please let me know if there is anything further I can do.

Yours sincerely,

Secretary.

AL/331/3

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Report from Bedford College for Women (University of London)  
on Courses arranged for International Students sent  
by the League of Red Cross Societies.

On behalf of the Council of Bedford College I beg to submit the following report on the development of the work of the International Students from March 1927 to the present time.

A brief summary of the work from 1921-27 is necessary for the sake of clarity.

Previous to March 1927 from May 1921 - March 1927 Bedford College at the request of the League of Red Cross Societies had undertaken to arrange a Public Health Nursing Course for International Students sent by the League. Up to 1924 the International Group was restricted to public health students. In that year the League appointed a Joint Advisory Committee with representatives of the League, Bedford College and the College of Nursing to consider and report on the possibility of arranging another course for Nurse Administrators. As a result of the recommendations of this Advisory Committee a course was started in 1924-25 with the co-operation of the College of Nursing.

Both course were found helpful in many ways. The Public Health Course was approved by the Board of Education and Bedford College gave a certificate at the end of the year to those who successfully passed the examination. The experience gained showed, however, that the courses required further development on the practical side since most of the subjects had to be dealt with by sending students to different centres where they were dependant on such help as the workers in the centres could spare the time to give. This system had the following disadvantages:-

- (a) It was not easy to procure the facilities required in centres where the public health workers were already overdone with their own local work.
- (b) There was no close linking up of the practical work with the theoretical work especially desirable in the case of students hampered by language difficulties.
- (c) A great deal of time was wasted by going from one centre to another and again especially in the case of foreign students who had no knowledge of London.

The Advisory Committee of the League of Red Cross Societies was asked to consider the question and they submitted a scheme for the development of the courses for International students at Bedford College with special reference to the training on the practical side.

The League undertook to finance the new scheme up to a maximum of £1122 per annum in addition to the fees already paid on behalf of each student. The proposals submitted by the Advisory Committee included:-

- (a) The concentration of the practical work at one centre.
- (b) The supervision of the practical work by a special tutor who would be able to link up the practical work with the theoretical work.
- (c) The arrangement of additional courses not hitherto part of the curriculum.

As a first step arrangements were made with the M.O.H. for Battersea whereby Bedford College paid the salary of an additional Health Visitor for the Battersea Borough Council in return for training facilities for International students. The arrangement continued from March 1927 to 1928 but did not fully meet the requirements of the students. Meanwhile in October 1927 at the request of the League the Council of Bedford College <sup>make themselves</sup> ~~took over the~~ *responsible for the* organisation of the courses for International students. The Joint Advisory Committee was replaced by a committee called the Committee for the Organisation of Courses for International Students. This new Committee was a Bedford College Committee with representatives of the League and of the College of Nursing.

It is responsible for advising the Council on the following matters:-

- (a) The administration of the grant of £1122 from the League of Red Cross Societies.
- (b) The admission of students.
- (c) The arrangement of courses.

Since October 1927 the following developments and improvements in the courses for International students have been put into effect:-

Practical Training for Public Health Students.

a. For Public Health Work.

The Council has appointed with the status of a Bedford College lecturer a full-time Public Health worker as Tutor to the Public Health students on the practical side who is responsible for their practical training and who is able to link it up with the theoretical side. Arrangements have been made with St. Thomas's Hospital for the practical training to be carried on under the auspices of the Social Service department of St. Thomas's Hospital in return for part time work from the Tutor to the hospital. The scheme has great advantages for the International Students who

thus get their training in one of the best organised departments of Social Service that England can provide. In addition an office has been fitted up close to the scene of their practical work where the students can be trained in office organisation including keeping of records etc.

b. For Nurse Administrators.

A similar arrangement has been made for the practical training of the Nurse Administrator group. A member of the educational staff of the College of Nursing has been appointed Tutor to the Nurse Administrators on the health side. In this case the Tutor is on the staff of the College of Nursing and the Council of Bedford College contribute one half of her salary. Here too the students get the advantages of a definite scheme of practical work carefully planned and carried through by experts in institutions best suited to their needs.

Theoretical Work.

Courses of lectures have been added to those provided previous to 1927 among which should be specially mentioned courses on:-

- (a) Nutrition.
- (b) Tuberculosis.
- (c) Psychiatry.
- (d) Maternity and Child Welfare.

In each case the lecturer is chosen with a view to the peculiar needs of the students, who receive much profit from these lectures.

Financial Aspect.

All the developments since March 1927 detailed above have been paid for out of the Grant from the League of Red Cross Societies. The payments have averaged approximately £800 per annum. At the request of the League the expenditure has been very carefully scrutinised with a view to possible reductions and it is quite clear to those concerned with the organisation that very little retrenchment is possible without detracting from the efficiency of the Course. The Council of Bedford College are not yet in a position to name a definite figure but it is clear that possible reductions could not exceed from £150 to £200 per annum. The Council, however, assure the League that the matter is having their careful attention.

They point out that:-

- (a) The Organisation Committee have given much time and thought to developing the Course for International Students on really efficient lines and they deprecate any retrenchment which might detract from this efficiency.

- (b) The difficulty of training in one group a number of students of different nationalities cannot be too highly estimated.
- (c) The fact that only £800 out of a grant of £1122 has been spent in any one year by the Council of Bedford College indicates the economy which has been exercised in its administration.

In conclusion the Council urge that the League of Red Cross Societies allow the work to be continued on the same lines and under the same financial conditions as hitherto on the understanding that reductions will be made wherever consistent with the maintenance of efficiency.

Secretary of Council.

19th October 1929.