

MEMORANDUM from the Committee of Management on the Practical Implications of the Report submitted by the Special Committee appointed by the Committee of Management of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation on the Facilities for Advanced Nursing Education in London, both professional and academic, and of the future educational policy of the Foundation.

(The references in Roman figures refer to the recommendations set out in the Report of the Special Committee of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation.)

The recommendations, upon which we wish to comment, fall into three parts :—

- A. Proposals with regard to the future educational policy of the Foundation.
- B. Proposals with regard to the interim period which must elapse before this policy can be put into effect.
- C. Proposals regarding the financial basis of the scholarships.

PART A.

Proposals with regard to the future Educational Policy of the Foundation.

The proposals for future policy involve the disappearance of the Bedford College Committee for the Organisation of Courses for International Students and of the direct association of Bedford College with the work of the Foundation.

It is proposed that the Foundation should aim at using courses already provided for English students. Differences of language and for some subjects, differences of background, create special problems of teaching in the case of students from non-English speaking countries. It is doubtful whether the special needs of these students would be adequately met otherwise than in courses specially arranged for them.

Recommendations I, VII, XII, XIV.

Recommendation I, interpreted in the light of VII, means that the "English school" to be used, shall be a "school of nursing" (possibly the Education Department of the College of Nursing).

Recommendation I states clearly that this "school" shall be "independent" of the Foundation.

The relationship between the two would presumably be a contractual one—the Foundation guaranteeing a certain regular number of students and the School guaranteeing to provide lecture courses.

In the light of Recommendations XII and XIV, it is probable that a certain number of students (no estimate of which can at present be made) will be arranged for by the Foundation outside the "School of Nursing," thus reducing the total number to be provided for in the "School." This raises the following practical difficulties:—

1. Could the Foundation guarantee a sufficiently regular supply of students to form the basis of an agreement with the "School"?
2. Would those students be requiring a sufficiently similar curriculum to entitle the Foundation to make any regular requests for lectures?
3. If the "School" is the College of Nursing, would the College be prepared to provide full-time day classes covering all the range of subjects and guarantee the permanency of that provision even though the supply of students were so small as to involve them in financial loss?

The Committee of Management, having consulted the Council of the College of Nursing, have received the following comments from that Council:—

VII, VIII, X.

¶ The Council of the College of Nursing is in agreement with these recommendations, and is happy to inform you of its willingness to act as the School of Nursing described, as soon as practically possible, and to enter into negotiations should an invitation to do so be received.

With regard to the recognition of the College of Nursing as a School of the University of London, and the establishment of an Academic Diploma in Nursing in the University, these have always been included in the educational

policy of the College of Nursing, as is evidenced by Article II, Clause B (i) of the Charter: "If and when considered desirable, to apply for admission as a College of the University of London, and to accept admission upon such terms as the University of London may prescribe."

XI, XIII.

Over a period of 17 years the Council of the College of Nursing has been steadily accumulating a fund towards the endowment of a Chair of Nursing in the University of London, and would welcome the co-operation of the Foundation to achieve this end.

The Council has already established certain courses in conjunction with Schools of the University of London; for example, in 1918 the course for Sister Tutors was inaugurated at King's College of Household and Social Science, and in 1926 a Diploma in Nursing was established by the University of London. Since 1925 invaluable co-operation has been afforded by Bedford College in admitting to appropriate lectures at the University students taking certain courses at the College of Nursing, and in endorsing the certificates awarded on the completion of one of these courses. This year King's College have also admitted students taking courses arranged by the College of Nursing in conjunction with the Institute of Medical Psychology. The Council of the College of Nursing has approved the principle of extending the Health Visitors' training from the minimum period of six months to an academic year, and has submitted a scheme for such a course to the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of London. ¶

The Committee of Management understands that the College of Nursing do not anticipate being able to extend their responsibilities in connection with the scheme for a period of at least five years.

In the meantime, the Report does not propose the establishment of an Academic Diploma of Nursing in connection with any existing School of the University, although such a possibility exists.

It appears, however, unlikely that the University would agree to the establishment of such a diploma unless it were evident that a demand were forthcoming from English nurses and that the existing University Extension Diploma did not meet the need. It should be noted that the present certificates for International students are awarded on their work during the session and without examination. The experience of the past suggests that a written examination such as would certainly be required for the award of an Academic

Diploma would entail a great deal of strain on foreign student nurses. The abolition of the written University examination on the termination of the existing courses was welcomed by teachers and students alike.

XII.

If nurses were able and willing to break off their professional work for at least three years in order to read for a University degree, there would be no difficulty in their doing so under the usual conditions obtaining for other students.

PART B.

Proposals with regard to the interim period which must elapse before the future policy can be put into effect.

The Committee of Management, having consulted the Council of Bedford College for Women, have received the following comments from that Council :—

XXIX.

" The Council of Bedford College are willing to continue the conduct of the International courses on the same lines as hitherto until a new scheme is brought into effect.

XXX.

The Council of Bedford College would also be prepared, if and when a Director of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation is appointed to appoint her as a member of the Organisation Committee.

XXXI.

Provision has already been made for this choice of alternatives.

XXXII.

Arrangements have this year been made for some of the students to attend courses at the Institute of Medical Psychology, and there is no reason why there should not be, from time to time, other special arrangements of similar nature. It must, however, be made clear that deviations from the established course will alter the financial basis of the scheme ; and that this established normal course, consisting of lectures specially prepared and separately delivered to meet the needs of Florence Nightingale students, involve considerable extra demands upon the time and energies of the staff ; and can only be maintained if the majority of the Florence Nightingale students follow it, deviation such as those mentioned above being limited to a few students of exceptional requirements or experience.

XXXIII.

This is a matter which might be taken up with the Institute of Education. The demand for opportunities of continuous teaching practice somewhat exceeds the supply of such facilities as are available, and some difficulty might be found in giving effect to this suggestion, but it is certainly one which might be explored.

XXXIV.

Organised discussion of problems of interest to the students is already a part of the system of instruction and will be further developed as circumstances permit.

XXXVI.

If there is no expectation that the form of the International Courses will be drastically changed in the course of the next three or four years, the Council of Bedford College would be prepared to apply to the University for their recognition as courses for Associate students. ¹⁾

PART C.

Proposals regarding the Financial Basis of the Scholarships.

XVI.

The recommendation that *all* the resources of the Foundation should be used to obtain assistance which may be necessary for students *before* the regular year of study seems to indicate further financial responsibility which it is felt that the Foundation is unable to undertake.

XVII.

The establishment of a Loan Fund for students may be desirable if and when the financial position of the Foundation justifies such an undertaking, but it should be remembered that certain difficulties might well attach to the collection, from foreign countries, of such moneys after the student's return to her own country. The possibility of the depletion of the Fund by loss on exchange should also be considered.

The following observations are made on Section IX of the Report :—

Para. 75. It is noted that the Special Committee assumes three sources of income : (1) fees from students ; (2) annual contributions as a temporary measure from member countries ; (3) income from endowment of the use of special gift moneys.

As to (1) this is, of course, understood: as to (2) the only member country which has contributed to current expenses, so far, is Great Britain, and we have no knowledge of the intention of other countries to contribute for that purpose, much less any idea of an amount which may be relied upon. As to (3), the income from endowment amounts to about £1 50 per annum and no "special gift moneys" have materialised.

It would seem, therefore, that we must face known facts when considering the cost of running the Manchester Square house as a residence for students, and those facts are as follows:—

The house is held on a lease which does not expire until March, 1955. It was not built for its present purpose, but has been converted for that purpose, and it is common knowledge that such houses are very expensive to run. It is difficult to see how the running expenses can be reduced if the house is to be kept at its present standard of appearance and in good repair.

The statement on page 8 shows the cost per student (varying as a matter of course with the number of students in the house) for the various standing charges, including office expenses, and a further statement showing the cost of board-residence at Manchester Square, per student, per week. These costs are also given for a variable number of students. The figures are based on 40 weeks' residence during the year. The only means at present of reducing these charges arises from visitors' fees (variable) and income from invested capital—at present about £150 per annum.

XVIII.

It is felt that it is not advisable to give students the responsibility of disbursing the amount of the scholarship during its term. This method was not considered desirable by the League of Red Cross Societies and there are definite objections to its adoption. Students generally do not display remarkable aptitude in managing financial matters, and the Foundation might be faced with the problem of the student who, having spent all her scholarship money before the end of the year, still had to be provided for out of available funds.

XIX.

While the statement that residence *should* cost about £3 per week claims our sympathy, and sounds quite reasonable, it will be seen from the figures produced that it does in fact cost much more, and, in the absence of a heavy subsidy from interest on investments or some other source, a charge of £3 per week is impossible if the Foundation is to keep out of debt.

XXVI.

In the suggested cost of scholarships, it would seem that the "corrected version" foreshadowed in the latter part of the paragraph, would need to be considered.

The present scholarship is £250. This pays for tuition and maintenance, but does not now include books or incidental expenses. It is desired to point out the substantial difference between the present cost of tuition and the cost suggested by the Special Committee. The present cost is as follows:—

Fees payable to Bedford College	£50 per student.
Tutors' Fees £400 p.a. (assuming 20 Students)		£20 per student.
		—
		Total £70 per student.
		—

The Special Committee suggest £45 to cover all tuition.

If the figures proposed in this recommendation were adopted we should have £145 (with a possibility of "extras" in holiday time) to meet expenses which we have hitherto been unable to meet on £250.

It is noted that residence of 30 weeks only has been allowed for in the Committee's estimate. Records are available which prove that the *average* length of residence of students (taken over a period of four years for purposes of a fair comparison) is 304 days (43 weeks and 3 days). The majority of the students have homes outside the country and presumably would not have many friends where they might visit, so would naturally be expected to use the house a great deal. It is difficult to see how 30 weeks' residence could be taken as a basis for calculation. It is purely imaginary, and quite contradictory to the facts as they are known.

ESTIMATED ALLOCATION OF ACTUAL COSTS.

APPROXIMATE COSTS.	24 Students.	23 Students.	21 Students.	19 Students.	17 Students.	15 Students.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cost of running house, including office expenses, per student	68 0 0	92 0 0	101 0 0	111 0 0	125 0 0	141 0 0
Salaries, wages and professional charges per student— ...	67 0 0	70 0 0	76 0 0	84 0 0	94 0 0	107 0 0
Cost of food per student (12/- per week for 40 weeks)	24 0 0	24 0 0	24 0 0	24 0 0	24 0 0	24 0 0
Tuition at Bedford College, per student	50 0 0	50 0 0	50 0 0	50 0 0	50 0 0	50 0 0
Tutors' fees and cost of presentation per student	18 0 0	19 0 0	21 0 0	23 0 0	26 0 0	29 0 0
	247 0 0	255 0 0	272 0 0	292 0 0	319 0 0	351 0 0
Cost per week per student for board-residence (not including tuition charges) assuming residence for 40 weeks in the year, and given the above number of students	4 2 6	4 13 0	5 0 6	5 9 6	6 0 6	6 16 0

Relief on above charges is at present obtained from two sources (*a*) visitors' fees, and (*b*) interest on investments. The visitors' fees are, of course, variable, but, striking an average, it may be said that from these two sources of income relief is obtained to the extent of almost 6/- per week per student.