

parts of the Empire, and the other six from the United States, Sweden, Switzerland, Lithuania, Finland and the Philippines) each coming up in turn to receive her certificate from the Duchess.

“Florence Nightingale is Dead”

MR. EASON, Vice-Chancellor of the University of London and medical superintendent of Guy's Hospital, caused somewhat of a sensation by his opening remarks. “I want you to remember,” he said with great emphasis, addressing the students, “that *Florence Nightingale is dead!*” There was a sudden hush at these words, this apparent *lèse majesté*; but Mr. Eason continued by reminding his listeners that Florence Nightingale in her lifetime was not known only as the Lady of the Lamp; she was also known as the Lady of the *Lash*. She was intolerant of hide-bound ideas, and fought against any custom that was revered “just because somebody several hundreds of years before said that it *was* so!” If she came back to earth she would be just as vigorous with her lash over many of the conditions of to-day. “Never allow yourselves to be strangled and throttled by tradition,” said Mr. Eason; and he warned them particularly against people who used two favourite arguments: that it was “the thin edge of the wedge,” or that it would create “a dangerous precedent.” At the conclusion of his speech there was prolonged and hearty applause. Miss Abelgas, the Philippine student, in a charming and fluent speech, proposed a vote of thanks to the Duchess, and this was seconded in a most able manner by Miss Thompson (Great Britain). Miss Thompson said that she had found the course “enormously stimulating,” and she reminded

“Special Lustre”

THE annual presentation of certificates to students of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation at Bedford College is always an occasion of great importance. The imposing setting, the academic dress, and the presence of so many distinguished people at the ceremony ensure this. But this year “special lustre,” as Miss Jebb, Principal of Bedford College, put it, was added by the presence of the Duchess of Kent, who came to distribute the awards. The Duchess, who looked charming in black and white, seemed thoroughly to enjoy the proceedings. Indeed, it would have been difficult not to, for there was not a dull moment throughout the afternoon. Sir Arthur Stanley was in the chair (the third time in three days that he had presided at functions honoured by Her Royal Highness) and introduced the speakers—though, strictly speaking, none of them needed any introduction to the audience. After interesting addresses from Miss Bridges (St. Thomas's Hospital) and Miss Jebb, came the presentations, the 18 students (12 from different

The Duchess of Kent and the “Internationals”



The Duchess of Kent with the “international” students after she had presented the certificates at Bedford College on June 26.

[Keystone.]

her audience of the inspiring motto of the “internationals”: “Small in numbers, great in works, and full of friendship for the world.” At the conclusion of the ceremony refreshments were served in Oliver Hall.

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were served

the nursing
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less reunions and prize-giving. There was also
a most successful post-graduate week-end at
Middlesbrough. Space does not permit full
details this week, but we hope to publish a photo-
graph and full account in our next issue. In the
meantime we might just mention that, like its
first venture last year, this second study week-end
to be organised by the Middlesbrough branch
was a great success. Attendances totalled 434,
with an average of 48 at each lecture. The
Mayor and Mayoress gave a reception. Some really
excellent lectures and visits were arranged and
everyone did everything possible to ensure a
happy, instructive and amusing week-end—
from the indefatigable joint secretaries to the
young lady who swallowed small mouthfuls of
a barium meal in order to demonstrate its passage
down the gullet!

The Nurses' Church

THE Rev. A. Lombardini had the honour of
receiving Queen Mary at his church, St. Law-
rence Jewry-next-Guildhall, when, on June 26,
she visited it to see the Nurses' Room which
was opened in the church in December last year.
As we explained at the time this room is for
nurses to meet, after the Sunday evening service,
for rest and refreshment before their precious
off time is up. The Queen was charmed with
the tastefully decorated room. "What a splen-
did thing for the nursing profession to have a
beautiful place like this to come to, especially
on Sunday evenings," she commented, adding:
"How homely and comfortable the room looks."
Miss Alsop, M.B.E., Dame of the Order of St.
John of Jerusalem, who acts as hostess at these
little gatherings, was presented to Her Majesty,
and on Monday morning she received a signed
photograph of the Queen for the room, accom-
panied by a letter saying how delighted Her
Majesty was with Mr. Lombardini's arrange-
ments. Nurses from all over the country are
getting to know about this room; so much so, in
fact, that the church is known as "the nurses'
Sunday evening church."

Dr. Hadley Puts Some Questions

NOBODY takes the future of nursing more
seriously than Dr. Hadley, medical superinten-
dent of Leicester City General Hospital. What
did our so called nursing progress really involve,
he asked at the hospital prize-giving on June 24

smouldering type that is not executing its pur-
pose in the most expeditious manner." With the
increasingly high standard of training and the
need for doctors to relegate more and more res-
ponsible work to nurses, a new difficulty was
facing them. This responsible professional
woman now thought it beneath her dignity to do
real nursing, such as that involved in looking
after the infirm and chronic invalid. Thus a
second grade of nurses was being evolved who
would do it.

"Smoulderings"

YET at the other end of the scale things were
none too rosy, for in Dr. Hadley's experience
ward sisters and staff nurses of superlative
quality were as rare as radium. It was all wrong,
too, that a trained nurse could secure a sister's
post direct from her training school; while even
sister tutors, for all their glowing prospects
and good salaries, were none too thick on the
ground. Dr. Hadley hinted at a Leicester scheme
which would make the training of nurses a
university responsibility, from which, however,
the second grade of nurse, the "working nurse,"
as Dr. Hadley called her, need not be debarred
if she showed ability. Well, Leicester is not the
only place where there are "smoulderings." Mrs.
Killby "smoulders" in our correspondence
columns this week, Dean Goodrich and Colonel
Ellis also "smoulder"—though from different
angles. For Dean Goodrich is concerned with
the summit of the structure and Colonel Ellis
with the base, and both are important in their
way. Yet it seems contradictory to ask for
university recognition for the "undergraduates"
of a profession which hardly dares to set a simple
general knowledge paper as a qualification for
entrance for fear it upsets the equilibrium (if
such has been achieved) between demand and
supply. It would seem that we must smoulder
some more, or else start up a number of separate
bonfires.

"THE NURSING TIMES" COUPON

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July 4, 1936