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## Nursing Mirror

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### The International Students

#### PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES

IT is impossible to think of more perfect weather than that which blessed the gathering of delegates and friends to witness the presentation of certificates by Dame Alicia Lloyd-Still, D.B.E., R.R.C., to the International Students at Bedford College on Monday last. Tea was served in the garden afterwards, on little tables under the beautiful trees, and made a delightful finale to a particularly interesting afternoon.

Mademoiselle L. Odier, from the Red Cross, in addressing the successful students, confessed how dearly she would love to have been able to enter for the course herself in the days gone by, and gave a little sketch of how she had watched the progress of the scheme year after year since it had first started in 1920. Not only did the students acquire most useful knowledge, but they all loved their stay in England, and when she came across any of them in her travels and mentioned Manchester Square—the scene of their home life over here—she could see a wave of nostalgia pass across their features.

#### Fifteen Different Countries

Miss G. E. M. Jebb, the principal of Bedford College, pointed out that the last session, the fourteenth, brought the number of students who had been trained up to 240, of which 34 came from Great Britain, 28 from Austria, 12 from Czechoslovakia, 9 from Finland, and 8 from Latvia. On this occasion every student had passed in every subject she had taken up, and Miss Margaret Muire Wall had obtained distinction in all. They had accomplished a yet more remarkable feat. Seventeen members from fifteen different countries, and speaking different languages, had lived together in apparently complete harmony—surely a model to the world.

#### Fixity of Purpose

Lord Cecil of Chetwood said that he felt like a fish out of water, because not only was he not a nurse but he had been fortunate enough to come seldom into contact with nurses. The occasion, as a rule, when a man meets a nurse is not altogether his happiest experience. The students, now that they were under the ægis of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation, were linked closely with her name. He wanted them to remember that the great pioneer had one quality which was not common to mankind, fixity of purpose. When she set her mind on a thing nothing would move her, and no obstacles were allowed to stand in her way. That was why she accomplished so much. He also wanted them to remember that nursing needs the co-operation of all for the good of all.

Mrs. Mitra, from India, in proposing votes of thanks, made a most excellent speech and was ably seconded by Miss Brauer, of Sweden.

#### Successful Students

The following students received certificates: *Public Health Course*: Ebba Katarina Brauer (Sweden), Fiorangela Codacci-Pisanelli (Italy), Birgit Kansanen (Finland), Elizabeth Kerekrethy (Hungary), Dorothy Mitra (India), Bridget Madge I. Ristori (New Zealand), Marjorie Winifred Smith (England), Luba Stoklisky (Lithuania), Marija Lela Vincek (Yugoslavia), Margaret Muire Wall (Great Britain).

*Course for Nurse Administrators and Teachers*: Bjorg Bachmann (Iceland), Olga Matyasova (Czechoslovakia), Carmen Maura (Spain), Jeanne Peza (Greece), Matilde Prida (Mexico), Elizabeth C. Thomson (Scotland), Jean Winifred Townsend (Australia).

"A Nurse Visitor" writes: In reply to the letter of "L. W. K.," either my experience of convalescent homes has been singularly happy or hers singularly unfortunate. I should like to tell your readers a little about a home where I have spent many months, and which is situated at the end of the winding village street of a little place in Essex. It was opened some years ago to provide a rest and change of air for women and girls, and receives typists, clerks, teachers, nurses, and other workers. Here breakfast is served at 9 a.m. and, as a sister always goes round at 7.30 a.m., anyone who is not well or has had a bad night has an opportunity of asking for breakfast to be sent up. The patients (who are always called "visitors," thus helping to eliminate the hospital atmosphere) are perfectly free to lie down every afternoon for a sleep, while for those who like fresh air there is a plentiful supply of deck chairs and rugs in a charming garden. The patients certainly are expected to make their own beds, if they are well enough to do so. Pleasant country walks and outings are available, and there is a library ranging from classics to thrillers. The patients' bedrooms contain either three or five beds, with curtained cubicles, and each room has a definite colour scheme. The food is extremely good, and the diet varied. It would be hard to find anything more homelike and less institutional; while the atmosphere is one of peace and freedom, so essential to convalescents.

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#### UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG TRAINED NURSES

"Jean" writes: I have been following the discussion in the correspondence columns of "The Nursing Mirror" about the employment of trained and untrained nurses. One point, however, seems to me to have been overlooked, namely, the fact that there is a certain amount of nursing which a fully trained nurse would not do for any length of time. I am referring to such work as the nursing of chronic cases in country institutions. I have for over nine years been connected with this kind of work; I am a State Registered nurse and midwife, and have had charge of country infirmaries as matron and superintendent nurse. My experience has been that the partly trained assistant nurse with some experience is an asset to an infirmary taking chronic and medical cases only. I have heard fully trained nurses speaking unjustly of partly trained members of the staff; but I think they should remember that, as we do not know the details of each other's lives, we do not always appreciate the reason why some nurse may have been unable to complete her training. I have found many assistant nurses cheerful year in and year out, and good at their work; on the other hand, I have had fully trained nurses who, just because they were trained, grumbled if, during the meal-time of an assistant nurse, they were required to give a bed-pan to a patient.

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#### TINY TWINS

"District Nurse" writes: Readers of "The Nursing Mirror" will have seen in the daily papers accounts of tiny babies which have been born recently. Bletchingley, Surrey, can boast of its tiny twins, which were born on June 4 last. Both are boys, and the first weighed 2 lb., while the second weighed about 1 lb. 4 oz. when born. For the first few days they were fed on expressed breast milk with alternative brandy-and-milk, and a few drops of olive oil. They are now being fed artificially, weigh 3 lb. and 3½ lb., and are gaining in health, strength and beauty. When the weather permits, they enjoy a healthy outdoor life. At first I went down to the cottage