

Approved by Council,
19th November 1936

Observations from the Council of Bedford College
on 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
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Observations from the Council of Bedford College on 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 F.N.I.F)

The recommendations of the Special Committee fall into two parts:

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

(A) The proposals for future policy involve the discontinuance of the International courses as such, 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 not clear whether the new scheme is contingent on the establishment by the College of Nursing of a connection with the University. This point is an important one for the Bedford College Organisation Committee, since it is clearly one of the considerations determining their probable lease of life.

As regards the proposal that in future the Foundation should aim at using courses already provided for English students,

the Council of Bedford College consider that 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. They doubt whether the special needs of these students would be adequately met otherwise than in courses specially provided for them. Hitherto, International students have worked as a group. This feature of the course has been a valuable one and the dispersal of the group would, it is felt, result in loss to its members.

Recommendations XI to XIV. (page 39) are evidently contingent upon Recommendation X. There is no proposal to establish an Academic Diploma of Nursing in connection with any existing School of the University. The suggestion is therefore contingent on the establishment by the College of Nursing of a connection with the University. It appears unlikely that the University would agree to the establishment of such a diploma unless it were evident that a demand for it 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.

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.

(B). As regard the recommendations concerning the interim period:

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 F.N.I.F. 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, involved 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, deviations 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.