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Report from Bedford College for Women (University of London)
on the work of the Committee for the Organisation
of Courses for International Students for 1935-37.

Report from Bedford College for Women (University of London)
on the work of the Committee for the Organisation
of Courses for International Students for 1935-37.

The work of the Organisation Committee for 1935-37 has been conducted on the same lines as those followed in previous years. There has been no change in either the constitution of the Committee or its functions.

Summary of work done by the Committee during the sessions 1935-37.

The Committee have held four meetings during the session 1935-36, and will have held five meetings during the session 1936-37, the last one being fixed for July 1st.

One of these meetings was specially convened to consider the report of the "Study Committee" of the F.N.I.F. Observations on this report have been submitted to the Committee of Management. Important changes made in the curricula of the courses are dealt with below. These changes embody certain suggestions made in the report of the Study Committee.

Student Business.

The following numbers of students have attended the various courses during the sessions 1935-37:

1935-36.

18 Students from the following countries:

Australia
Canada (3)
Finland
Great Britain (5)
India
Lithuania
New Zealand (2)
Philippine Islands
Sweden
Switzerland
U.S.A.

1936-37.

18 students from the following countries:

Austria
Bulgaria
Canada (3)
Czechoslovakia
Denmark
Finland
Great Britain (3)
Irish Free State
New Zealand
Norway
Siam
South Africa
Sweden
U.S.A.

Two of the 1934-35 students, one from Latvia and one from Finland were permitted to stay in England to take an additional Almoner's Course and had an interesting and beneficial six months. At the end of this period of training their F.N.I.F. Certificates were endorsed by the Institute of Hospital Almoners and signed by the Chairman. This is the first occasion on which an International Student has sought and obtained a qualification for Almoner's work.

Curriculum.

The Committee have given much consideration to the question of the revision of the Curriculum and have received recommendations on this subject from the Education Committee of the F.N.I.F. There are no longer to be three distinct and separate courses. The division between compulsory and additional subjects has been made less rigid and provision has been made for a larger number of alternatives. The revised curriculum has been in operation from October 1936. The Committee hope the new curriculum will meet the demands for deviation from the standard course, for which they have application from time to time.

In this latter connection should be mentioned:

(1) The case of a graduate from U.S.A., who was permitted to leave out some of the compulsory subjects and substitute a thesis on "The origins and development of two early English Schools of Nursing - St. Thomas's and Guy's." Though the Committee found it possible to meet this student's wishes with regard to her course, it was not possible to award her the Certificate in the form in use up to and including July 1936, so she was given in place of the Certificate a special signed statement setting out the course which she had followed. In future this difficulty is obviated by the new form of Certificate, see below.

(2) The case of two students, one from Finland and one from Norway, who were afforded facilities to follow two special courses: (a) Psychopathology and Mental Hygiene at King's College, London, and (b) a Clinical Course in Childhood Disorders for Health Visitors at the Institute of Medical Psychology.

(3) Three students who have taken advantage of the opportunity now offered of taking some subjects other than those demanded by the recognised course.

The holding of discussion classes for the students at International House, referred to in the last report, has been continued and the students have been encouraged to read papers and discuss points arising out of their work.

One development on the practical side of the students' work should be reported, namely that arrangements have been made, where so desired, for students to have observation abroad during some of the vacation periods.

Students whose command of spoken English was known to be small have been encouraged to come to England two or three months before the beginning of the course.

Change in form of Certificate.

With the change in the Curriculum, it has been necessary to change the form of Certificate, and in July 1937 the new Certificate will be awarded for the first time. The wording is appended.

Distinguished Visitors.

At the ceremony of the Presentation of Certificates in June 1936 H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent presented the Certificates and Mr. Eason, Vice-Chancellor of the University of London, addressed the students. Her Royal Highness was presented with a copy of Miss O'Malley's "Life of Florence Nightingale".

In 1937, the Certificates are to be presented by Dr. Alma Sundquist, President of the Medical Women's International Association, and Mrs. Carter, Chief of the Nursing Division, League of Red Cross Societies, is to address the students.