

284

THE NATIONAL FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEMORIAL COMMITTEE OF GREAT BRITAIN.

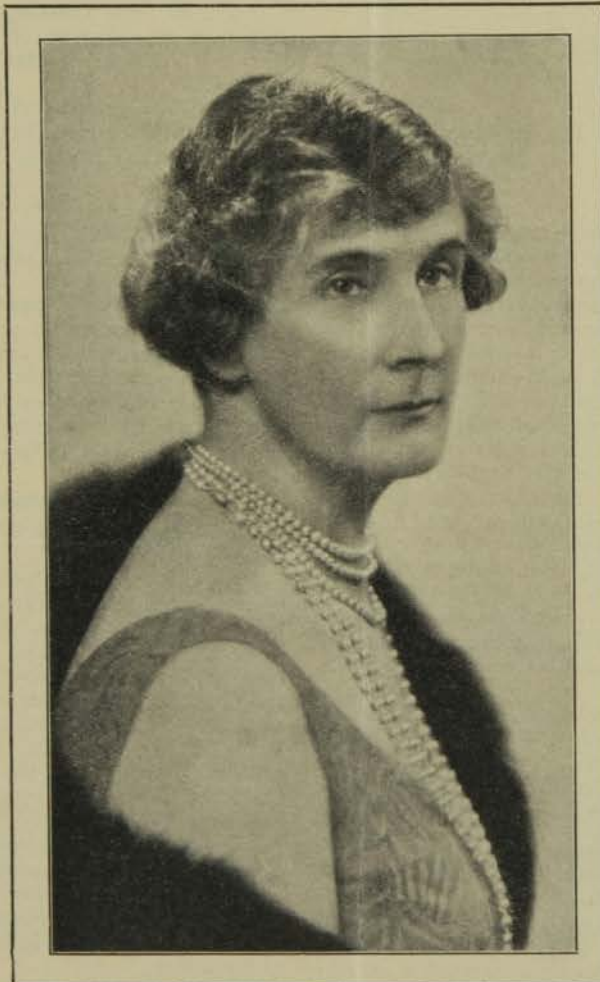
The first meeting of the National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of Great Britain was held in the Nightingale Nurses' Home, at St. Thomas's Hospital, London, S.E., on June 14th, at 3 p.m. The President (Her Grace the Duchess of Devonshire) was in the chair, supported by the Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, Chairman of the British Red Cross Society and Treasurer of St. Thomas's Hospital; Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain; and Sir George Newman, K.C.B., F.R.C.P., Chief Medical Officer of the Board of Education and of the Ministry of Health.

The members of the Committee present included, in addition to those above-mentioned, Mary, Countess of Minto, Dame Sarah Swift and Dame Alicia Lloyd Still, Vice-Presidents; the Duchess of Abercorn; the Hon. Mrs. Clive Behrens; Miss G. M. Bulman (Matron, Royal Free Hospital); Miss A. M. Bushby (Vice-President, British College of Nurses); Mr. W. H. Bonham Carter; Dr. J. S. Collier (Royal College of Physicians); Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Crosfield of Embley Park; Miss Helen Dey (Matron, St. Bartholomew's Hospital); Lt.-Gen. Sir Harold Fawcus, Director-General, British Red Cross Society; Miss Goodall (College of Nursing); Miss H. Hanks (Matron, St. George's Hospital); Mary, Viscountess Harcourt; the Countess of Kenmare; Miss G. M. Littleboy (Matron, London Hospital); Dame Maud McCarthy; Miss Isabel Macdonald (Royal British Nurses' Association); Miss D. M. Martin (Matron-in-Chief, Q.A.I.M.N.S.); Mr. E. W. G. Masterman (British Medical Association); Miss M. G. Milne (Principal Matron, L.C.C.); Mr. R. Montgomery (High Commissioner for India); Miss E. M. Musson (Chairman, General Nursing Council for England and Wales); Miss Osborne (Matron-in-Chief, T.A.N.S.); Miss Rosalind Paget; Mrs. William Pendarves; Miss Proctor (King's College, London); Miss E. M. Pye (President, Midwives' Institute); Miss Renwick (Head Sister-in-Chief, Q.A.R.N.N.S.); the Lady Riddell; Miss Parsons (Director of Education Department, College of Nursing); Dame Ann Beadsmore Smith; Miss D. M. Smith (Lady Superintendent, Middlesex Hospital); Miss E. Smith (Matron, Westminster Hospital); Miss M. E. Sparshott (College of Nursing); Sir Edward Stewart; Dame Margaret Tuke; Dr. G. de Bec Turtle (Royal Society of Medicine); Miss Watt (Matron-in-Chief, P.M.R.A.F.N.S.) and Miss M. A. Willcox (Sister Matron, King's College Hospital).

The President, in opening the meeting, said it had been a matter of deep regret to her that she was unable to attend the inaugural meeting, and it was therefore all the greater pleasure to her to attend on the present occasion.

The whole scheme of the Florence Nightingale Memorial Foundation was a fine conception, which she was sure had only to be better known to receive wholehearted support. She was especially glad to support it, as coming from Derbyshire, Miss Nightingale's own county. Its international character was of great value. It was splendid that the students should be drawn from so many countries, and return to them taking back what they had learned during their post-graduate course, and apply this to their special needs.

It was wonderful how much people took the efficiency of nurses for granted, but they did not always realise the cost of education. This scheme for the higher training of nurses would bring home to the public that they cannot have the most highly skilled nurses unless they support their professional education financially. She hoped to learn much concerning the proposals for the development of the present scheme during the meeting.



HER GRACE THE DUCHESS OF DEVONSHIRE, President, The National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of Great Britain.

PROGRESS OF THE SCHEME REPORTED.

Progress from the point of view of the National Council of Nurses and the International Council of Nurses.

Her Grace The Duchess of Devonshire invited Mrs. Bedford Fenwick to report progress from the point of view of the National Council of Nurses and the International Council of Nurses.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick then presented the following Report:

Madam President, Your Grace—

I have been invited to report the action and progress of the National and International Councils of Nurses since our Inaugural Meeting in July, 1932, in support of the proposed Florence Nightingale International Foundation. This will be more clearly apparent if we recall the fact that in the year 1912 the proposal to

institute an appropriate educational memorial to Miss Florence Nightingale was put forth and adopted by the International Council of Nurses at its Meeting at Cologne of that year.

In 1914 the next gesture in support of the memorial was made when as representatives of the I.C.N. Miss Lavinia Dock, its Hon. Secretary, and myself were received by Miss Tuke, the Principal of Bedford College for Women, when we discussed with her the possibility of promoting a Chair of Nursing and Health, a proposal sympathetically

received by her, but which, owing to the authority of less enlightened persons, failed to materialise.

Then the power which fore-ordains—Destiny—declared War. Here I am tempted to speak on destiny, but might be called to order.

In 1920 the League of Red Cross Societies organised and financed Courses of nursing education for International Students at Bedford College, work of the highest importance and value.

During the next decade the I.C.N. Committee under American Chairmanship took no practical action in connection with the Florence Nightingale International Memorial. In 1929, elected to the Chair of that Committee, I thought the time had come to act, but realised that there was no room in London for a second international scheme of nursing education.

Came 1931, when owing to financial reasons the League of Red Cross Societies announced the termination of its International Educational Courses.

Surely a predetermined event!

Here let us pause to realise the significance of this announcement! Sincere regret for the loss of such admirable educational work.

How to retain it.

Was it possible that the magic personality of Florence Nightingale might by associating the nurses of the world with generous-minded people who resent the ravages of disease, and their consequent tragedy, unite them and advance the international memorial projected by the International Council of Nurses for so many years? Surely the power which ordains directed such union.

You will remember that at the Meeting of the Board of Directors of the I.C.N. in Geneva in 1931 I presented a Report, together with an exhaustive letter from Miss Adelaide Nutting, advocating that the Nightingale International Foundation should take the form of an endowed foundation for post-graduate nursing education in London. This was agreed.

In the November of that year, at the Annual Meeting of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, it was agreed to confer with competent Red Cross authorities in London in view of making permanent the International Nursing Courses as the nucleus of the International Florence Nightingale Memorial.

These conversations, made possible by the courtesy of Sir Arthur Stanley, Chairman of the British Red Cross Society, had the happiest results. The League of Red Cross Societies generously consented to finance the work at Bedford College for another year, and by 1932 the union of the I.C.N. and the Red Cross was well advanced.

Action of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, 1932.

The National Council of Nurses of Great Britain organised and financed Nightingale Week, July, 1932. Many International Delegates attended. Deeply interested in educational institutions and work, they came into touch with the spirit of Florence Nightingale in her Motherland, paid homage at her grave with prayer and flowers, were permitted to visit her former home at Embley Park. These pilgrims carried to their various countries a live report of the scope and scheme for the F.N. International Foundation, arousing enthusiasm in many countries for international nursing education associated with the revered pioneer of modern nursing. During Nightingale Week the National Committee of Great Britain was inaugurated on July 6th, 1932, at St. Thomas's Hospital.

In December, 1932, the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain issued an appeal for Funds to its constituent societies, and the nursing staffs of Hospitals, which has received most generous support. Approximately the nurses in Great Britain have to date subscribed £3,250,

which enabled them to finance seven Scholarships for the 1933-1934 Session, and two for the coming session of 1934-1935 at the expenditure of £2,250, leaving in hand £1,018 10s., including a gift of £18 10s. presented to me for a Nightingale Memorial some years ago; £528 of which by special request of the Queen's Nurses has been earmarked for the Endowment Fund.

I feel sure you will realise the enthusiasm and generosity of our British Nurses in subscribing this large sum in 18 months, and thus helping to finance scholarships during this interim period.

For the Session 1933-1934 students attended for the Course in Public Health from Sweden, England, Hungary, India, Lithuania, Italy, Finland, Jugoslavia, New Zealand and Great Britain.

And for the Course for Nurse Administrators and Teachers in Schools of Nursing, from Czechoslovakia, Greece, Norway, Scotland, Mexico, Iceland, Spain and Australia.

For this next Session 1934-1935 already 16 Students have been approved from Great Britain, France, South Africa, Canada, Holland, Germany, Turkey, Bulgaria and Denmark.

Social Studies.

The Provisional Committee have this year approved the organisation of a year's course in Social Studies for public health nurses. This Course, which is intended primarily for public health nurses from those countries where high courses for social training are not available, will be accepted for the International Certificate alternately with the Course in Public Health and the Course for Nurse Administrators and Teachers in Schools of Nursing. No doubt from time to time further advances will be made in the organisation of special instruction to meet scientific demands.

The International Council of Nurses.

We now come to the action taken by the International Council of Nurses.

As you know, the Draft Scheme for the Florence Nightingale International Foundation was submitted to the Board of Directors and Grand Council for consideration in Paris in July, 1933. That with appropriate recommendations for the preservation of professional expression the Draft Scheme was unanimously adopted. This Scheme, as you know, provides for the organisation on a national basis of co-operation between National Associations of Nurses, grouped in the I.C.N., and National Red Cross Societies, associated together with representation on the Grand Council, the governing body of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation; a simple yet definite basis of representation, through which organisations every trained nurse and every philanthropic member of the public may honourably associate together in support of this international Memorial to a supreme benefactor of humanity.

The Board of Directors of the I.C.N. elected at a Meeting held in Brussels on July 16th, 1933, the five following delegates to represent it on the Grand Council of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation when inaugurated:

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Chairman, I.C.N. Memorial Committee.

Miss Alicia Lloyd Still, President, I.C.N., Great Britain.

Miss Effie Taylor, United States of America.

Miss Jean Gunn, Canada.

Sister Bergliot Larsson, Norway.

Until which time it was agreed that Miss Lloyd Still, Miss Musson and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick should act on the Provisional Committee, together with the three representatives of the League of Red Cross Societies which compose it.

1933.

In November, 1933, invitations were issued to the Nurses' National Organisations and to the National Red Cross Societies throughout the world, to form together a National Committee, to which we have had in six months' time most gratifying response. Already National Memorial Committees have been formed in 15 countries, Great Britain, France, Belgium, Holland, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Finland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Irish Free State, Canada, South Africa, and India. Other countries, including the United States of America, are in process of organisation. Thus a majority of the countries affiliated in the International Council of Nurses have taken action. The growth of so beneficent and world-wide a movement cannot be forced. We must give it time and space for evolution, yet surely the Spirit is moving on the face of the waters.

The following gifts have been sent to the Endowment Fund :

| | | | | |
|--|--------|-----|----|----|
| The National Council of Polish Professional Nurses | | £40 | 0 | 0 |
| The Danish Council of Nurses | | 44 | 12 | 10 |
| The Icelandic Nurses' Association | | 20 | 0 | 0 |

for which thanks.

In respectfully submitting this Report of the participation of the Nurses of the world in this great movement, I have only incidentally alluded to the indispensable work of the League of Red Cross Societies, Sir Arthur Stanley will emphasise that. I may, however, congratulate you on the complete harmony which has inspired the deliberations of your Provisional Committee, and made possible such wonderful progress in so short a time, so that in a few days the inauguration of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation will take place, with illimitable possibilities for the advance of nursing education throughout the world, and the dedication of knowledge acquired to the health and happiness of man.

I can conceive of no policy more potent for the civilisation of mankind than the psychological penetration of the health missioner.

Progress from the point of view of the British Red Cross Society and the League of Red Cross Societies.

Sir Arthur Stanley reported progress from the point of view of the British Red Cross Society and the League of Red Cross Societies, and said that Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's clear and lucid exposition of the Foundation left him little to say. Its establishment would have been impossible but for Mrs. Fenwick. Although proposed as long ago as 1912, it took no shape until recently, but they all knew that once Mrs. Fenwick took hold of anything it had to be done. He was pleased in that home of the Nightingale School to report that he had received a message from the Chairman of the Nightingale Fund (Mr. R. Collett Norman), who was unable to be present, saying that the Committee of the Foundation seemed unusually wise in choosing as its object the award of scholarships year by year. The Fund was providing a Scholarship of £250 for 1934-1935, and hoped to do so annually.

When it was decided that the Memorial to Florence Nightingale should take this form, it was estimated that it would be necessary to raise the sum of £200,000. At the present time this was impossible. It was decided, therefore, to carry on by raising £6,000 to £7,000 a year for scholarships and working expenses, and it was calculated that 17 scholarships of £250 each would be required to make the scheme self-supporting. He was pleased to announce that scholarships had already been awarded by this and other countries, and payments had been made personally by students to make the Course for 1934-1935 secure. Sir Arthur reported a letter from Mr. Swift (Secretary-General

of the League of Red Cross Societies), stating that he had just received a cable from the American Red Cross saying that it was taking up the matter vigorously, and that Mrs. Draper had set out to raise 100,000 dollars (£20,000) for the Foundation. It offered two scholarships for the ensuing year, but as the seventeen students were already secure, he asked leave, and it was agreed, to hold over one scholarship until the following year.

The announcement of donations received made in the Report presented by Mrs. Fenwick was wonderful. The speaker raised a laugh by saying it was the first time we had not had depression from Iceland.

The question of officers and a staff for the Foundation would have to be considered, so far these had been provided by the British Red Cross Society.

It was very satisfactory that at this first meeting of the Committee so large a proportion of the members were present.

A Student of Florence Nightingale.

Sir George Newman, who stated that for many years he had been a student of Florence Nightingale, said that he had watched with great interest this movement for the establishment of scholarships for nurses.

Paraphrasing the words, "Let us now praise famous men," he said that we were not here only, or even primarily, to praise Florence Nightingale, but to plan how to carry on in a larger and international way the work which she so well began. The nurses at St. Thomas's Hospital were called by her her daughters. Why did we to-day desire here to promote the present proposal for the endowment of nursing education? Because this hospital was the true home of Miss Nightingale's endeavour; in this institution was her enduring home and her fulfilment. The Nightingale Home was anchored in this great hospital, and this particular place was the home of her spirit. Anyone who knew the history of this marvellous person knew that it was the only possible way of adequately commemorating her at the close of the Crimean War. It was the gift of the English people to Miss Nightingale, an endeavour to pay back to her somewhat of their irredeemable debt. It was difficult to realise what Florence Nightingale was in those years, 1854-1856—the greatest Englishwoman of the age. She accepted the gift and wanted it to last for ever; she had given to nurses a most beautiful inheritance, and she begged those she called her daughters to carry on her dreams so that they in their turn might become founders. She knew she was a founder all right. Most assuredly from here the present movement in honour of Florence Nightingale should go forth.

What did we now come to commemorate in regard to Florence Nightingale? Her devotion? The mass of work done with her own hands? Yes; but what were the things that endured for ever? It was suggested to commemorate her in a new aspect of her own endeavour. Because of the training of Embley and of Lea Hurst, this extraordinary phenomenon in English history was being educated for her future life's work. Miss Nightingale was not a highly trained nurse; she had for many years to live down prejudice and opposition and then to get trained. Yet it was the use she made of the training she did receive that enabled her to succeed in the Crimea, to successfully overcome the opposition and inertia of the War Office. "Think of it," said the speaker, turning to Sir Harold Fawcus, formerly Director-General of the Army Medical Service, who was present, "we meet together not to fight the bird, not to kill the bird, but to offer reverential homage to our heroine."

Military Nursing, Sanitation, Red Cross Work—with all of which Miss Nightingale was associated—each has come into its own in our time, largely owing to her inspiration.

PTG.

Her great little books were still living stuff. Her aim for nurses was that they should be a trained profession, not of sentimental aspirations but of diligent life.

She had proved to be one of the greatest women who ever lived at any time, and of any nation, because out of her work had come such tremendous results.

Trevelyan had said of the Crimean War that there were great losses for small gains, but that the hero of the war was Florence Nightingale.

She once wrote of "one for whose life all are better off than if he had not lived." That was her conception of greatness.

Of Florence Nightingale herself, we might say, "Here her spirit lives, lives that it may become world-wide, here it is imprisoned; it is for you to see that it is liberated."

She believed that man can control his life and labours only by self-discipline, devotion and self-dedication. From the day that she vowed her life to the service of others, she acted on the assumption, "I control circumstances, not circumstances me."

To-day, in setting their hands to raising an adequate memorial to her, the Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of Great Britain were undertaking a task which was a simple duty.

Sir George Newman's comprehending and sympathetic delineation of Miss Nightingale's personality and work was warmly applauded.

The Executive Committee Re-elected.

The present Executive Committee was re-elected, and authorised to make arrangements for an Appeal for funds to help to finance the proposed scheme and to elect a Secretary and Treasurer.

The Committee comprises Mary, Countess of Minto, Dame Sarah Swift, Sir Arthur Stanley, Sir Harold Fawcus and Mrs. Rome, nominated by the British Red Cross Society; and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Dame Ann Beadsmore Smith, Dame Alicia Lloyd Still, Miss H. Dey, and Miss E. M. Musson, nominated by the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain.

The appointment of Sir Arthur Stanley and Miss E. M. Musson, as the two delegates to represent the National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of Great Britain at the Inaugural Meeting of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation on July 5th, and to serve on the Grand Council, was confirmed.

Dame Alicia Lloyd Still, Superintendent of the Nightingale Training School, moving a vote of thanks to the Duchess of Devonshire for presiding over the meeting and to Sir George Newman for his eloquent speech, emphasised the need for vision in connection with this new venture. There must, she said, be nothing parochial about it. The proposal for this Memorial to Miss Nightingale had first been made by the International Council of Nurses over twenty years ago. The War had quenched the spark for a time, but Mrs. Bedford Fenwick had kept it alive, and at the right moment had fanned it into flame.

Speaking of the educational work carried on by the League of Red Cross Societies at Bedford College, Dame Alicia spoke of the value of this international intercourse between nurses of many nationalities. She invited those present who were not familiar with the work going on at 15, Manchester Square in connection with these International Courses, to acquaint themselves with it.

The meeting then terminated, and tea was hospitably served.

The wealth of lovely flowers in the Hall and mementoes of Miss Nightingale in the adjoining sanctum—the Probationers' Sitting-room—provided the appropriate and inspiring environment.

HER GRACE THE DUCHESS OF DEVONSHIRE.

The attendance of the President, the Duchess of Devonshire, at the first meeting of the National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of Great Britain, at St. Thomas's Hospital on June 14th, enabled the members to realise the ability and charm of its Chairman whose association with its work will be of inestimable value.

The Duchess is the wife of the ninth Duke and was a daughter of the fifth Marquis of Lansdowne, so well known to registration pioneers for his courtesy and kindness when, in 1908, he facilitated the passing of the second reading of Lord Amptill's Bill for the Registration of Nurses in the House of Lords.

The Duchess of Devonshire is Mistress of the Robes to Her Majesty Queen Mary, a Lady of Justice of St. John of Jerusalem, a J.P. and an hon. LL.D. Leeds University. She was in Canada from 1916-1921 when the Duke was Governor-General of the Dominion, and takes a deep interest in the social well-being of the community around her lovely homes in Derbyshire, of which Chatsworth is the most regal, its gardens of world-wide renown.

NIGHTINGALEIANA.

Mr. Albert I. Myers, of Bond Street, W., writes, in a recent letter to *The Times*, referring to the Address given by the Archbishop of Canterbury at St. Thomas's Hospital, at the service in commemoration of the birthday of Florence Nightingale, in which His Grace alluded to the unrelieved mass of suffering and disease among millions of our fellow subjects in India, Africa, and the Far East: "I have before me a long series of letters by Florence Nightingale to Surgeon-Major James Pattison Walker, M.D., Secretary of the Bengal Sanitary Commission, which exhibit her deep concern and her untiring efforts to relieve the suffering to which the Archbishop refers."

Mr. Myers then quotes some most interesting letters of this series, in which the following are included:—

On October 18th, 1864, Miss Nightingale wrote:—"I wish Sanitary Rules could be made a religion, a fanaticism with the ignorance of the natives—we know that Moses made sanitary things a part of his code for the people."

Again, on January 3rd, 1865, she wrote:—"There is nothing—really nothing—on this side of the grave which I long to do as much as a visit to India. While others try to run away from India, I would desire more than anything else to go to India. I seem to know so well what I want to do there that it appears to me as if it would be going home, not going to a strange country. But, alas, for me, it is quite impossible. I shall never leave London except for the grave. . . . If there were ever any hope of reaching India alive and of my being able to go on working when there as I do here, I believe I should be tempted to go. . . . I may tell you in confidence that in 1857, that dreadful year in India, I offered to go out to India in the same way as to the Crimea. . . ."

Again, on October 18th, 1865:—"John Bull is a conceited ass and thinks the climate ought to take care of him, instead of him taking care of the climate. Batavia was the most deadly place in the world. But now people go there for their health."

The last letter, dated August 10th, 1868, contains the following passage:—

"Five Years ago we finished the reports of the R. India Sanitary Commission which has, Praise to God, borne good fruit. . . . although we must all feel, as people whose idea is higher than human power of performance, that the work in India might have progressed more rapidly."