

MEMORANDUMIntroduction

The League of Red Cross Societies first instituted an International Course in Public Health in 1920, with a view to providing for qualified Red Cross nurses destined to fill positions of leadership and responsibility, facilities for post-graduate study which were not otherwise available. The success of the public health course and recognition of the need of similar facilities in another important branch of Red Cross activity, led to the institution, in 1924, of a second course destined to meet the special requirements of nurses called upon to act as administrators or teachers in schools of nursing.

During the period 1920-1932, 208 students from 41 different countries have taken one or other of these courses.

Of these 208 graduates of the courses 70 hold positions with the national Red Cross Societies of their respective countries, 40 are employed by state, provincial or municipal bodies, and the remainder (with the exception of a very small proportion who have married or retired from active nursing) are working with private organisations.

Value of the Courses.

The endeavour to make it possible to continue the International Courses, if not for an indefinite period, at least for a further five years after 1932, is justified both by the results already obtained and by the fact that their abandonment would eliminate from the field of nursing an asset which is in many respects unique.

While it is true that there are University Courses in the United States and in Canada where foreign nurses are freely admitted, the Bedford College Courses are the only ones of their kind in Europe and the only ones which are deliberately planned to meet the needs of an international nursing group. The facilities for post-graduate study which are made available to the nurses nominated by Red Cross Societies at Bedford College would not be open to them in any other way.

Not least important from the educational standpoint is the fact that the organisation of the Courses in London brings nurses of different nationalities under a common roof for a year of common study in which the social sciences play an outstanding part. This arrangement provided a unique opportunity for the interchange of ideas leading to a broadening of the interests of the students and a development of their personalities, which could hardly be achieved by any other means. Moreover, being as they are in constant touch (through the Old International Students Association) with each other and with the League of Red Cross Societies, the graduates of these Courses have every opportunity for maintaining in their after work an 'esprit de corps' based on the wide sympathies and international interests which they have acquired.

Administration

1. The Educational Programme

The educational programme is in the hands of a committee which reports through the Academic Board to the Council of Bedford College. This Committee was nominated by Bedford College, and its present mandate runs until July 1932; it comprises, under the chairmanship of the Principal of Bedford College, the members of the Faculty of the College, four representatives of the Educational Committee of the College of Nursing, and two representatives nominated by the League of Red Cross Societies.

As its composition shows, the purpose of this Committee is to ensure in the administration of the Courses the fullest co-operation between the College authorities, the nursing profession and the Red Cross. The Committee assumes entire responsibility for passing on all applications from candidates desirous of taking the Courses, which are forwarded to it with the endorsement of the League, and for the actual programme of work, both practical and theoretical, to be undertaken by the students.

The special funds allocated by the League for the educational work in connexion with the courses during the period 1927-1932, are at the present time expended in accordance with the recommendations of this Committee.

2. 15, Manchester Square

In 1925, on the initiative of Miss Masarykova, President of the Czechoslovak Red Cross, a fund was raised from contributions from national Red Cross Societies, members of the League, for the purchase of the lease of a house in London to serve as a residence for the students attending the Courses. The League of Red Cross Societies has accordingly acquired the lease of 15 Manchester Square until 1955. The residence in question is a beautiful 'Adams' house within ten minutes walk from Bedford College, and contains accommodation for twenty students. It has been furnished throughout with furniture, hangings, etc. donated by different Red Cross Societies and characteristic of the arts and crafts of their respective countries. The House Committee responsible for the administrative arrangements and expenditures meets under the chairmanship of the Principal of Bedford College, and comprises six members of the Nursing Advisory Committee of the British Red Cross and two nominees of the League of Red Cross Societies. This Committee authorizes all payments in connexion with the administration of the house. The administrative staff comprises two full-time workers, a superintendent (an American nurse) and one assistant, and in addition a part-time accountant.

While designed primarily to serve as a residence for nurses taking the International Courses at Bedford College, the house at Manchester Square serves also as a centre for nurses coming from all parts of the world to study in England. Since 1926 fourteen special students from ten different countries have made their headquarters there while engaged in special studies for periods varying between four months and three years each. In addition to such special students an increasing number of nurses and other visitors interested in Red Cross work have come to look to Manchester Square for guidance and help during their stay in England. When accommodation is available, arrangements are made to enable such visitors to stay in the house for a limited period and all possible facilities are given them to enable them to make valuable contacts, visit institutions and carry out programmes of study in accordance with their individual requirements.

Follow-up of Past Students

Reference has been made above to the importance of the contact maintained by the League, through the Nursing Division of the Secretariat, with the past students of the International Courses. This contact is maintained in three ways:

1) - The "Old International Students' Association" which was formed in 1925. The membership of this Association comprises all past students and its purpose is to maintain and strengthen the bond between them and to further the cause of international understanding among nurses in general. The Association has its own constitution and is supported by the subscriptions and donations of its own members, and is consequently entirely independent financially.

2) - A "Summer School" - entailing three weeks of intensive study - was organised experimentally for past students of the Courses in 1928. Eighty-nine past students from twenty-nine different countries attended this "Summer School" at Bedford College and followed the courses given in Principles of Education and Methods of Teaching. The results obtained in 1928 were such as to warrant the repetition of a short course of this character every five years.

3) - The League Secretariat keeps all past students on the mailing list for the League's publications; the Nursing Division keeps in touch with them by correspondence; and personal contact is maintained whenever occasion arises in connexion with visits of members of the League Secretariat to the Headquarters of national Red Cross Societies.

Finance (1)

Educational Work

The expenses in connexion with the educational programme have in the past been made from the following sources:-

- 1) - A percentage of the grants made to students in the form of scholarships, either by the national Red Cross Societies, by the League (on the recommendation of the national Society concerned) or by other organisations. (2)

(1) All figures in this and subsequent sections are based on an average attendance of 20 students (in all for the two courses) each year.

- 2) - A special grant made by the League to Bedford College for the period 1927-1932.
- 3) - An appropriation from the general budget of the League.

In order to put this activity on a sound financial basis, independent of the L.O.R.C.S. General Budget the following expenditure will require to be met -

1. Educational Expenditure (20 students)

Bedford College & College of Nursing Fees.....	£ 945. 0. 0.
Grant to Bedford College for salaries of Nurse Tutors, extra lecturers, etc.....	£ 700. 0. 0.
Presentation of Certificates.....	30. 0. 0.
	£1,675. 0. 0.

2. Permanent Overhead Charges on 15 Manchester Square

Ground Rent.....	£ 250. 0. 0.
Rates & Taxes.....	270. 0. 0.
Insurance.....	22.10. 0.
Repairs.....	200. 0. 0.
Library.....	30. 0. 0.
Salaries.....	400. 0. 0.
Offices expenses, telephone, etc..	193. 0. 0.
	£1,275.10. 0.

With these two important items ensured, Scholarships awarded by National Societies would only be required to cover the expenditure for:-

- 1) Household expenditure including food, service, cleaning, renewals.. £2,050. 0. 0.
 - 2) Students' expenses for books, subscriptions, excursions, maintenance during practical work, laundry, etc..... £1,050. 0. 0.
- £3,110. 0. 0.

or approximately £155 per year per Student.

Even with the cost to the National Societies reduced to £155 per student per year (exclusive of travelling expenses and pocket money) it is not anticipated that a large number of Societies will be able to provide Scholarships for Nurses. It is essential, therefore, that the League should have at its disposal a fund from which Scholarships can be awarded to those societies unable to meet the expense themselves. Out of 20 students it may reasonably be estimated that an average of 15 would require such scholarships.

-
- (2) It has been the practice of the League to award annually ten whole scholarships or an equivalent number of half-scholarships to candidates recommended by Red Cross Societies which for any reason were unable themselves to bear the cost of giving a scholarship to a duly qualified candidate. The grant for a whole scholarship is \$1,000.

To sum up

Total amount (minimum) required each year to ensure the continuing of the International Courses for 5 years, allowing for an average of 20 students per year -

1.	Education Expenditure at Bedford College and College of Nursing	£1,670	0.	0.
2.	Permanent Overhead Charges on 15 Manchester Square	1,275.10.	0.	0.
3.	Scholarship Fund, allowing for 15 scholarships per year at approximately £155 each.....	2,325.	0.	0.

Total per year - £5,270.10. 0.

or at the present rate of exchange

(November 25th 1931) approximately - \$21,082