

THE NATIONAL FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

THE NATIONAL FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEMORIAL COMMITTEE OF GREAT BRITAIN.

The following letter of Appeal submitted by the National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of Great Britain appeared in *The Times* on January 12th, and it is to be hoped will receive a generous response from the public, who are beginning to realise the value of skilled nursing and a high standard of public health throughout the world.

"CREATOR OF MODERN NURSING."

MEMORIAL TO FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

To the Editor of *The Times*.

SIR,—The National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of Great Britain, which is appealing to the people of this country, is a unit in a great international movement to raise a permanent and living memorial to the memory of Florence Nightingale which will carry on and extend her great and beneficent work. Already upwards of 20 countries have formed, or are in process of forming, national committees to collect funds.

The memorial, by the enthusiastic agreement of nurses of all nations, will take the form of the endowment, in London, of post-graduate courses of training in public health nursing and of teaching and administration in schools of nursing. These courses are already in operation, having been established soon after the War by the League of Red Cross Societies, with the collaboration of Bedford College for Women (University of London) and the College of Nursing, and there is a comfortable hostel for the students at 15, Manchester Square, W.1. The scholarships have been financed from year to year by the League of Red Cross Societies (which has now exhausted its money available for the purpose) and the efforts of the nurses federated in the International Council of Nurses, and some 220 nurses from 43 countries, including our own, our Colonies and Dependencies, have completed the training and returned to their home countries to fill positions of importance and responsibility.

The standardisation of nursing throughout the world is of supreme importance, and hardly less so the opportunity which is given to representative women of all nations to meet each other in daily study and in the social intercourse of a common home life. Just as Florence Nightingale looked back upon her training at Kaiserswerth, on the Rhine, as the inspiration which fitted her for her great services to her country, so these international students carry away with them from their studies in London an ideal which will be of inestimable benefit to the world.

We especially appeal to the citizens of London to initiate the movement in this country because Florence Nightingale was one of them and was honoured as an honorary Freeman of the City, and, with one exception, she is the only woman upon whom this coveted distinction has been conferred.

It is apt to be forgotten that Florence Nightingale was the creator of modern nursing in all its branches, whether civil or military, and that she reformed the Poor Law infirmaries and did much to establish the first district nursing associations. She revolutionised hospitals and hospital administration so that, from being in many cases pest-houses of disease, hospitals became the hygienic and sanitary places which we know to-day as cheerful centres of hope and healing in a suffering world. There is no human being in any civilised country for whom life has not been made more tolerable by her enlightened vision and her long life of unremitting toil. She has become an

international figure, and no merely national memorial, however excellent, could adequately keep alive and extend the enduring principles of her universal service to mankind.

We earnestly commend this international memorial to Florence Nightingale for the endowment of these scholarships for trained nurses to the generous and sympathetic consideration of the citizens of London and the people of Great Britain in the hope and belief that her own country, which owes so much to her, will take an honourable share in raising the total sum required of £200,000, of which it is desired to raise £40,000 by July next.

Donations will be received with gratitude by the Duchess of Devonshire, President of the National Florence Nightingale Memorial, 14, Grosvenor Crescent, London, S.W.1. Lists of donations will be published periodically in the advertisement columns of *The Times*.

We are, yours faithfully,

EVELYN DEVONSHIRE (President, National Florence Nightingale Memorial).

ALICIA LLOYD STILL (President, Florence Nightingale International Foundation).

ETHEL GORDON FENWICK (President, the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain).

ARTHUR STANLEY (Chairman, Executive Committee National Florence Nightingale Memorial).

THE OLD INTERNATIONALS' ASSOCIATION.

The Old Internationals' Association, is composed of international students who have been admitted and completed their course of study at Bedford College, London, formerly associated with the League of Red Cross Societies, and now as students under the Florence Nightingale International Foundation. These students during the past fourteen years have come from all over the world, and it is hoped that in the future the truly international representation will continue. We have received a copy of the recent issue of the *News Letter*, the official organ published twice a year by the Association, which contains much interesting information, and there is evidence that under the New Constitution of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation the students are pleased to realise as little alteration as is permissible has been effected in their environment. Headquarters are still at 15, Manchester Square, London, now officially named Florence Nightingale International House.

The *News Letter* contains the list of officers of the Association, of which Miss Venny Snellman, of Finland, is President and Miss Dorsey Hon. Secretary. The Constitution and By-laws appear to protect the liberties of Active Members, who associate with those privileged persons who presumably are calculated to strengthen its proceedings.

Such an association of students as they annually pass out of the environment of Florence Nightingale International House will be able to carry far and wide its value as an international agent [of goodwill between the nurses of the world, and as in the future the majority will be members of, and the privileged pupils of their National Associations, their experience will be of value in the councils of such associations when they return to work in their own countries.

"The Old Internationals" have a representative on the Committee of Management of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation, to which position of responsibility Mlle. Mechelynck of Belgium has been appointed.

The Association has taken time by the forelock and has secured permission for the use of Bedford College Residence for "Old Internationals" during the Congress of the International Council of Nurses, which is to meet in London in the summer of 1937.

taining show china, largely Wedgwood and Spode. *En route* we passed a candy and souvenir shop, a circulating library, printing office, and hairdressing and beauty parlour.

There is a marvellous system of ventilation; up on deck huge ventilators suck in gigantic lungfuls of fresh, sparkling sea air, with powerful electric blower fans acting as lungs. This fresh air is poured into the rooms through the Puncak Louvres, which are under the passenger's control. Direction or quality of air may be altered at will, or shut off altogether.

Then came the State Apartments, where the furnishings are of the same richness and completeness as those on land. We realised this as we passed through many suites exquisitely furnished in Adam or Queen Anne and other periods, in rooms amazingly spacious, with soft curtained low windows looking to the horizon, and entrancing colour schemes to choose from, lido blue and gold, rich crimsons, soft pinks and delicate greens.

There is space for tennis, and the motor life-boats, equipped with wireless, excited much interest.

On deck, the Garden Lounge port and starboard, where bay trees stood, and clusters of spring flowers, blue and pink hyacinths, daffodils and azaleas, looked gay indeed.

We learned from our untiring guide that during his

The time for departure arrived all too soon, the afternoon having passed like a flash for all there was to see and learn of the wonderful arrangements on Cunard ships for passengers at sea, whether sick or in the best of health; every possible need and convenience is available on these great liners; and the members of our party expressed warm thanks to Dr. John Hill and Miss Beryl Thomas for their great courtesy and kindness; they were also indebted to Mr. A. Bentley, the Steward, for conducting them on the general tour of the ship.

Once more high on deck on this lovely January day when there was a hint of dusk, and the great ships lay in the Docks for a long way, far beyond through a blue haze stretching to the horizon lay the great city of London, a wonderful sight!

The British College of Nurses is most grateful to the management of the Cunard-White Star Company for the privilege extended to its members on a memorable visit to the *S.S. Carinthia*, when they were given most valuable instruction and so cordially welcomed by the officers in charge.

The development of comfort in the wonderful ships of our mercantile marine is becoming more and more a factor in the preservation and renewal of health, and also in the care of convalescents owing to the provision of medical and nursing care. Thus, every Cunard passenger boat carries a Registered Medical Practitioner and a State Registered Nurse who is also a Certified Midwife. The accommodation and catering, and the amusements provided are all that can be desired, and many people now spend their holidays cruising in one of these great liners on the sea, instead of, as formerly, lodging nearby, and enjoy a completely different life from that ashore, and the benefit and education of travel, while those recovering from illness can do so under ideal conditions. British ships, beloved of the nation have, in short, become an important asset in the promotion of health, and should more and more be designed to enable all classes to enjoy convalescence at sea.

Many of us have heard the reply of the British boy to his tutor's question—

"Where is your soul?"

"In the sea, Sir."

ALICE STEWART BRYSON.

LEGACIES TO NURSES.

Lord Riddell, Chairman of the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, W.C., and of the *News of the World*, always generous in his lifetime, has left a large number of bequests to friends and employees; and trained nurses will be glad to know that two members of their profession benefit substantially under his will. To Miss Bulman, Matron of the Royal Free Hospital he bequeathed £2,000, and to his private nurse, Miss Isobel Wright, he left £5,000. Dame Louise McIlroy, until lately on the Medical Staff of the Royal Free Hospital, also receives £1,000.

Lady Riddell, who was Lord Riddell's cousin, was trained as a Nightingale Nurse at St. Thomas's Hospital, and before her marriage was a Sister there. As a member of the Nightingale Fellowship she is a member of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, through which she will receive much sympathy in her bereavement.



The Doctor's Consulting Room and Dispensary.

twenty-two years' service he had travelled nine times round the World and in reply to the question: "Where in all the world would you choose to live?"

"In England every time, and after all I have seen I am thankful that I am an Englishman," was the prompt rejoinder.

We were then conducted to a beautiful dining-room, where, Miss Thomas presiding, we were most hospitably served with delicious tea and cakes. Our hostess and Dr. Hill told many interesting things of the hospital work at sea. Miss Thomas was proud that she had received her training at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, and that she had formerly held the post of Superintendent of a Canadian Hospital, that her present post was full of interest, in which the unexpected played a large part. It has been her experience to spend a voyage, when it was imperative to be on duty night and day, when critical operations were performed; accidents, too, were not uncommon on a ship built to carry some two thousand souls! They were frequently very busy.

Miss Thomas spoke with enthusiasm of her affection for the *Carinthia*, on which she has sailed for some years; the lure of visiting many lands was fascinating and educative.