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## The International Memorial to Miss Nightingale

THE Florence Nightingale International Foundation, to which our own nurses have contributed so generously, has existed in its present form since 1934. Before that it was conducted under the aegis of the League of Red Cross Societies. Being now well established as the memorial of the world's nurses to the world's greatest nurse, its directors regularly take stock to see whether it caters in the best possible way for the requirements of its scholars.

In the early days only two courses were offered—public health and hospital administration. But now that nursing in the students' own countries is developing so rapidly (largely due to the lead given by the "Old Internationals" themselves on their return from London) such a narrow choice hardly meets the case. Last year a departure was made when one student took up social study and another chose as her thesis the history of the Nightingale Training School. But now nurses want to study all sorts of things—industrial nursing, mental hygiene and social administration, to quote but three examples. For we must remember that these international scholarship holders are drafted from the world's cleverest and most outstanding nurses, and, having already acquired a solid nursing background in their own country, they naturally expect their year in London to be both profitable and highly individual.

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Thus the Committee of Management, which is recruited from the League of Red Cross Societies, the International Council of Nurses,

Bedford College, the National Council of Nurses, the College of Nursing, the British Red Cross Society and the Old Internationals' Association, has decided to have no set courses at all. Each student will be encouraged to pursue her particular bent, and so varied are the sources of teaching and experience obtainable from London that every student will secure just what she wants. Everything is going to be far more flexible and individual, and there is to be more time for private study and research.

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All this entails a great deal of special planning and a great deal of expense, but the International Foundation is a big thing, and is expected to do big things. Money comes in sufficiently well for the Grand Council to see their way from year to year, but these world institutions take some time to establish, and only gradually do the various countries form their national committees. £10,450 has come in in scholarship money, of which Great Britain has subscribed *nearly a quarter*, the United States being second on the list. Endowment money amounts to £5,355, of which the United States has contributed well over half, fourth place going to the "Old Internationals" themselves—which shows what store *they* set by the year's course. Innumerable other groups and other countries contribute according to their means, and a notable gift was the sum of £350 from the Rockefeller Foundation, to finance a study of the facilities in London for advanced nursing education. This study took three months to make and was carried out by a committee of four experts, led by Miss

Kathleen Russell, of the School of Nursing, Toronto University. Their report will be discussed next July. Among other generous gifts was the lease of 15, Manchester Square, the students' headquarters, from the League of Red Cross Societies; so that one way or another over £18,000 has been subscribed since the Foundation was first established.

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Florence Nightingale International House, to give the Manchester Square house its full title, accommodates 22 students, and to ensure the most economical running every room should be in use. Usually the students number between 18 and 20. It is suggested, therefore, that occasionally promising and ambitious nurses with private means might take a course at their own expense (£250), or a group of nurses less well off might share a scholarship between them and make up the rest of the sum themselves. Sometimes governmental and municipal bodies can be persuaded to help, so long as they are assured of the service of their student for a specified time on her return. Some of the world's more prosperous nurses' leagues and alumnae might also award scholarships.

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Every two years the Grand Council meets to survey the ground, the next meeting taking place early in July before the International Congress. The British Red Cross Society is organising an international bazaar at this time, to be held at Bedford College in aid of the funds. Member countries all over the world are providing articles of national interest, but Great Britain has the rather special task of providing the public, or, in other words, the purchasers with purses.

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Since the last meeting the Foundation has lost a director, Mademoiselle Chaptal, and two vice-presidents—Miss Take Hagiwara, the Japanese national president, and Madame Marta Celmins, president of the Red Cross Nurses' Association of Latvia. The vice-presidents, who are appointed by the Grand Council "from eminent persons who have rendered signal service to the Foundation," retain office for life, but the number appointed may not exceed 26. As, however, the two recent losses reduce the present number of vice-presidents to 12, it is likely that more will be appointed when the Grand Council meets.

It is a matter for pride that our city of London should have been selected for this world memorial. Nevertheless it is the city in which our nineteenth century leader did her most forceful and constructive thinking.

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## Topical Notes

### Congress News

ROYALTY continues to display a very real interest in the forthcoming Congress of Nurses. As our readers are aware, the opening ceremony on July 19 will be performed by the Princess Royal. In addition to this, members of the Grand Council have been commanded to appear at Buckingham Palace on July 20, when they will be received by Queen Elizabeth and Queen Mary. Over £1,000 has now been collected for the Congress Appeal Fund, and 351 tickets have been sold, bringing in another £175 10s. Many of these tickets, by the way, must have gone to College members, for more than that number of applications have been made through the College. Miss Gullan has been more than busy in the Congress office, issuing and receipting tickets, and also organising a staff of lady stewards to help in the Central Hall, Westminster. One realises that preparations are world wide and not confined to the hostess country, as day by day news comes in of visitors from abroad who are planning to attend. Her many friends will be sorry to hear that Miss Annie Goodrich, Dean Emeritus, Yale School of Nursing, will not be one of these. She has written to say how much she regrets being unable to attend what she feels will be "an epoch-making occasion." There will be many nurses from Germany, and it is very much hoped that the German Ambassador will be at the opening reception. Programmes will be available in English, French and German, and there will be a display of professional literature throughout the Congress.