

THE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION COUNCIL

R E P O R T

The Florence Nightingale International Foundation Council held its first meeting at the Headquarters of the International Council of Nurses, 19 Queen's Gate, London, from March 1st to 4th, 1950.

Members present:

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| Miss E. Kathleen Russell | Director, School of Nursing,
University of Toronto,
Toronto, Ontario, Canada. |
| Mrs. R. Louise McManus | Director, Division of Nursing Education,
Teachers College,
Columbia University,
New York, N.Y., U.S.A. |
| Miss Mary I. Lambie | (Formerly) Director,
Division of Nursing,
Department of Health,
Wellington, New Zealand. |
| Miss Venny Snellman | Director of Nursing Education,
Department of Health,
Helsinki, Finland. |
| Miss Marjorie Duvillard | Director,
Bon Secours School of Nursing,
Geneva, Switzerland. |
| Miss Ellen Broe | Educational Director,
Post-Graduate School,
Aarhus University,
Aarhus, Denmark. |
| Miss Yvonne Hentsch
(Representing the League
of Red Cross Societies) | Chief, Nursing and Social Service Bureau,
League of Red Cross Societies,
Geneva, Switzerland. |

Ex-officio Member:

Miss Gerda Hojer President,
International Council of Nurses,
Stockholm, Sweden.

Attending by invitation:

Miss Ruth Sleeper Chairman, I.C.N. Education Committee,
Director, School of Nursing and
Nursing Service,
Massachusetts General Hospital,
Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

Miss Olive Baggallay Nurse Consultant, Nursing Section,
World Health Organization,
Geneva, Switzerland.

Miss Elizabeth W. Brackett Nurse Consultant to the European
Regional Office,
International Health Division,
Rockefeller Foundation.

Miss G. E. Davies Honorary Treasurer,
International Council of Nurses,
19 Queen's Gate, London, England.

Miss Daisy C. Bridges Executive Secretary,
International Council of Nurses,
19 Queen's Gate, London, England.

The meeting was opened by Miss Gerda Hojer, President of the I.C.N., who welcomed the members of the Council.

Mrs. R. Louise McManus was unanimously elected Chairman, and at a later session Miss Yvonne Hentsch was elected Vice Chairman.

It was noted with regret that neither of the two educationalists who had been nominated by the Board of Directors (e.g., Professor James Mackintosh and Dr. Esther Lucille Brown) had been able to accept appointment; and that Dr. Muriel Uprichard (alternate for Dr. Brown) had been unable to attend this

meeting. It was agreed to invite Dr. Uprichard to attend the next meeting, and to recommend to the next meeting of the Board of Directors the names of other suitable persons, prominent in education, to serve on the Council.

Terms of reference

The Council first considered the terms of the Trust Deed of the F.N.I.F., as amended in June 1949, and noted in particular the authority delegated to it by the Board of Directors, as set out in the Amended Trust Deed under Section

4. (2) "Powers of the Council":-

- (a) To assess the objectives and purposes of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation and to implement these in an educational programme.
- (b) To submit matters relating to overall educational policies to the Board of Directors of the Foundation for approval.
- (c) To prepare an annual budget of expenses for presentation to the Board of Directors and to administer the funds of the Foundation within the approved budget.
- (d) To submit an annual report including the audited accounts of the Foundation funds to the Board of Directors for approval.
- (e) To appoint the Director and all professional personnel of the Foundation required to implement the policy of the Board of Directors.
- (f) To exercise any other powers specifically delegated to it from time to time by the Board of Directors.

The Council next considered the functions ascribed to it, and agreed to accept responsibility for these functions as set out in the Amended Trust Deed, under Section 2. "Objects":-

- (1) To establish and maintain a permanent International Memorial to Florence Nightingale in the form of an endowed

Trust which will assume responsibility for the long term educational activities of the International Council of Nurses including those countries not yet affiliated to the International Council of Nurses.

- (2) To plan, conduct and promote research in nursing.
- (3) To create a centre of information and guidance concerning educational facilities which will be available to all nurses and agencies.
- (4) To establish, maintain and stimulate the award of scholarships and fellowships to selected scholars for study which would benefit national and international nursing education and service in all countries.
- (5) To make enquiries, to institute investigations and to do all acts or things necessary for the purpose of finding and selecting such scholars and fellows and of maintaining, placing in suitable posts and otherwise caring for scholars and fellows so selected.
- (6) To maintain and develop a section of the Library of the International Council of Nurses, dedicated to Florence Nightingale to include:-
 - (a) The collection and housing of material relating to the life and work of Florence Nightingale.
 - (b) The publication and collection of monographs on research done by the Florence Nightingale International Foundation and of literature relating to the Foundation.

The Council recognized that to establish and maintain an adequate memorial to one who was not only the greatest nurse of her generation but also an inspiring leader and statesman, was a challenging task; such a memorial must have as its objective nothing less than the improvement of nursing service to all mankind.

In considering a future programme for the Foundation, members of the Council expressed a consciousness of their responsibility in establishing

sound basic principles and policies on which long-term plans for essential educational activities could be built. They conceived it their duty to try to define a goal that would be far-sighted, and to outline a programme which would be broad enough to embrace the most urgent needs in nursing, as well as the needs of nurses for advanced nursing education. They are aware that nurses in many countries are looking to the Foundation for leadership in developing such education, as well as in initiating research into national and regional needs, thereby contributing most effectively towards the improvement of nursing throughout the world.

There would appear to be three basic problems which concern nurses, and these the Council believe that the Foundation must keep before it in building a programme both for the immediate and more distant future. These problems, stated briefly, are as follows:-

1. What are the health and social needs of peoples and their communities, and how do these needs differ in various parts of the world.
2. What is to be the future function of the nurse in helping to meet these needs.
3. How can the nurse be best prepared for her functions in the light of the ever-changing trends in medical and social science.

The Council recognised that a programme of activities should be based on a study of the present most urgent needs of nursing; the Council therefore decided upon certain plans of procedure in order to facilitate such a study as expeditiously as possible, in order to carry on the educational activities essential to the programme of the F.N.I.F.

1. Appointment of Director

It was agreed to take immediate steps to appoint a Nurse Director competent to develop and to direct an educational and research programme.

In studying the needs of nursing, and in the development of the work of the Foundation, the Director must maintain a close relationship between any new projects undertaken and other current activities within the I.C.N. This relationship is particularly important in connection with the work of the I.C.N. Education Committee, which is already engaged on educational studies according to present and more immediate needs. It will be essential, also, that the Director study the programme and resources of related organizations which are engaging in research in order to establish and maintain the closest co-operation with them.

In this connection it is particularly important that the F.N.I.F. be ready to assist, if required, in the activities of the World Health Organization, with which organization the I.C.N. is already in official relationship.

2. Establishment of a centre of information

The Council proposed to designate to the Director as one of her chief functions the responsibility of building up a centre of information and guidance on post-basic educational facilities throughout the world. Such a centre would develop and provide:-

- a. Information on available programmes in post-basic nursing education, including a study of such programmes, with appropriate comments.
- b. Information on the number and types of scholarships and fellowships

available for nurses, and the sources from which these may be requested.

- c. An educational consultant service to assist both individuals and agencies who are seeking advice and guidance on post-basic nursing facilities.

3. Awarding of Scholarships

The Council believes that one of the ways in which the objectives of the Foundation can best be achieved is by encouraging and facilitating the study of nursing problems. The Council therefore recommends to the National Florence Nightingale Committees that they continue to award scholarships, but in accordance with certain revised policies; and that they assume greater responsibility than in the past for the planning and administration of the study period of selected scholars. The Director of the Foundation will provide, upon request, necessary information and guidance to the National Committees.

To qualify for a scholarship awarded through a National Committee for study abroad a candidate shall

- a. Be endorsed by the Education Committee of her National Nurses Association.
- b. Have had an approved basic nursing preparation, and where possible some approved post-graduate work.
- c. Have submitted to the National Committee an outline for a proposed programme of studies.
- d. Be eligible and accepted for the training programme which she has applied to follow.
- e. Be preparing for work important to the improvement of nursing developments in her own country.
- f. On conclusion of her studies prepare a report appertaining to the

programme she has followed. This report should be assessed by the National Committee and forwarded to the Foundation with recommendations for its use. Reports so forwarded may be written in English, French, or German.

4. Awarding of Fellowships

Fellowships will be awarded by the Council itself to selected scholars as and when the funds of the Foundation permit. Such Fellowships will be awarded for the purpose of making special studies as decided upon by the Council and likely to benefit nursing education and service in all countries. It is intended that studies undertaken as a result of these Fellowships shall contribute directly to the developing programme of the Foundation.

5. Responsibility for Research

The Council, in accepting responsibility for the functions ascribed to it in the Trust Deed, is committed to a programme of research in nursing. It therefore proposes to stimulate and promote such research in the following ways:-

- a. By the awarding of Fellowships for specific studies as needs present themselves and funds allow.
- b. By co-operation with other foundations or international organizations engaged on research projects affecting nurses or nursing.
- c. By the collection of information in regard to the availability of research grants for nurses.
- d. By preparing guides on research methods and research techniques to assist individuals or groups who are planning research in nursing

techniques or in nursing education.

- e. By collecting and making available reports on research projects already undertaken, and by assembling information on projects now being planned or in progress.
- f. By assisting in the planning of group activities, as for example in the organization of study groups on specific educational or research problems.
- g. By compiling a roster of potential research personnel, to include persons suitably qualified who might be available to assist in programmes of advanced study for graduate nurses, or in short-term or long-term research activities.

In the assembling of material for the proposed centre of information, National Associations should be encouraged to co-operate, and the resources of the I.C.N. explored.

6. Library activities

The Council took note of the fact that one of the objectives of the Foundation is to maintain and develop a section of the Library of the I.C.N. to be dedicated to Florence Nightingale. Members were of the opinion, however, that too little is at present known of the extent of existing library facilities or of existing needs in regard to library services. They therefore did not feel competent to make recommendations at this juncture as to immediate desirable activities in this field of work. With the assistance of a trained Librarian, a joint report with recommendations will be prepared by the Director of the Foundation and the Executive Secretary of the I.C.N., to

be presented at the next meeting of the Council for guidance as to future action.

6. Appointment of Sub-Committees

The Council, acting within its powers according to the terms of the Trust Deed, has set up an Executive Committee of three members (with a quorum of two), constituted as follows:-

Chairman: Mrs. R. Louise McManus
Chairman of the Council

Members: Miss Yvonne Hentsch,
Vice Chairman of the Council
Miss Gerda Hojer
President of the I.C.N.

Co-opted Members
for Finance: The Honorary Treasurer of the I.C.N.
The Deputy Treasurer " " "
The Executive Secretary " " "

Co-opted Members
for Education: To be co-opted as required.

Special functions designated to this Executive Committee are as follows:-

- a. To take the necessary steps to expedite the selection and to appoint a Director for the Foundation.
- b. To assume responsibility as designated to it by the Council for the vesting of funds or other assets of the Foundation.
- c. To prepare an annual budget and report for presentation to the Council for forwarding to the Board of Directors, and to administer the funds

of the Foundation within the approved budget.

- d. To select and appoint Fellows according to the agreed policy of the Council.
- e. To make the necessary arrangements for the calling of the next Council meeting.
- f. To deal with matters relating to the Foundation between regular meetings of the Council.

The Council considered that the Foundation is facing a future of unlimited possibilities, and that its re-organization within the I.C.N. should bring unity and strength. Adequate funds are essential, however, both for meeting current needs, as well as for making possible the developments which are envisaged. The Council has gone on record, therefore, in approving at its closing session two resolutions which it desires earnestly to bring to the notice of all Active Members of the I.C.N., as well as to the Chairman of the I.C.N. Ways and Means Committee:-

1. That an appeal be made to the National Nurses' Associations and to the National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committees for annual contributions towards the expenses of the Foundation, and
2. That the Ways and Means Committee of the I.C.N. be approached to find funds for the continued support of the work of the Foundation.

With a programme as outlined, which is both constructive and expanding, The Council is confident that such an appeal will not be made in vain.
