

Topical Notes

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War on Disease

PRESENTING certificates to the students of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation at Bedford College on July 8, Dr. Alma Sundquist, president of the Medical Women's International Association, said that ignorance and superstition were still rife in the world. The students of the Foundation were leagued against it. Their work was known, admired and respected throughout the world. It might be urged that the sum of human happiness and progress had not increased since the War, but the expectation of good health was greater, and good health meant much for happiness. Miss Jebb, Principal of Bedford College, pointed out the large number of students from the British Empire taking the course—eight out of eighteen. They were welcome, but she hoped that the financial and currency difficulties which kept students from other nationalities away would soon be solved. She referred to the informal discussion groups at International House, which helped the students to realise each other's point of view, also to the opportunities to see work being carried on in other countries.

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The Red Cross and Education

SIR ARTHUR STANLEY said that the Grand Council of the Foundation had been meeting throughout the week to deal with the problems which the Foundation had set itself to solve. Mrs. Cecil Carter, speaking as one who had in her time learnt much as a student of the Foundation, stressed the great urgency of a finely thought out and progressive educational policy. A false step taken now might adversely affect

the training and education of nurses for some generations to come. Florence Nightingale, a woman with wide interests and a gift for imaginative thought, would have been ruthless with us; she would have told us to discard worn out principles, and have pointed out the special needs of a new era of nursing. The Red Cross knew no bar of colour, creed or race, and stood for disinterested assistance to all who suffered and were in need of personal help. It followed as a natural development that the Red Cross, which, 75 years ago, had started to train nurses for the care of the sick and wounded in war, was now devoting itself to the education of nurses of every nationality in the war against disease wherever it might be found. Funds were needed, but they would come when an educational policy satisfactory to nurses themselves and to the Red Cross was worked out. Miss Kessell, from Norway, and Miss Sage, from Canada, very graciously proposed and seconded votes of thanks to the speakers and to the audience, and then Miss Jebb's invitation to tea in the gardens was gratefully accepted. (See also page 699.)