

REPORT OF INFORMAL MEETING HELD AT THE TREASURER'S HOUSE, ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL, TO CONSIDER THE SUBJECT OF AN INTERNATIONAL MEMORIAL TO FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

An informal discussion on the subject of an International Memorial to Florence Nightingale took place on Thursday, 14th January, 1932, after a luncheon at the Treasurer's House, St. Thomas's Hospital, to which Sir Arthur Stanley invited Mrs. Bedford Fenwick (President, National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, and Chairman of the Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of the International Council of Nurses) Miss Lloyd Still (Matron, St. Thomas's Hospital, President of the Nightingale Fellowship, and Vice President, National Council of Nurses of Great Britain) Miss Musson (Treasurer, International Council of Nurses) Dame Sarah Swift (Matron-in-Chief, British Red Cross Society) and Mrs. Carter (Director of Nursing, League of Red Cross Societies)

The subject under discussion was the suggestion made by the Board of Directors of the International Council of Nurses, that an International Memorial to Florence Nightingale should be established which should be International in character, situated in London, and that the form which most appealed to the Directors would be an endowed foundation for Post graduate Nursing Education on the lines of the work carried on by the League of Red Cross Societies in connection with Bedford College for Women (University of London) and the College of Nursing. The three representatives of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain brought forward some questions as follows :

*Mrs Carter says you will cater for it*

1. Would the League of Red Cross Societies be willing that their organisation of post graduate course for nurses should be taken over by an International Committee as the basis of an International Memorial to Florence Nightingale?
2. The proposal is that an influential National Committee should be formed in each Country to be termed the Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee to raise funds for the endowment and upkeep of such Scheme.
3. That the Scheme be carried out by a Grand Council which shall meet annually in London on which each participating Country shall nominate a representative, and which will appoint an Executive Committee to organize the work.
4. Would it be possible to have on May 12th, or other appropriate date, a representative meeting in the Governor's Hall of St. Thomas's Hospital to launch the Scheme?
5. If (4) should be agreed, proposed that the National Council of Nurses should organise an International week at the time of the meeting.
6. Would it not be wise, if possible, to have some promise of support to announce at the meeting?

7. Could Mr. Baldwin be approached as Trustee of the Pilgrim Trust?
8. As a nucleus of finance, would it be possible for the Memorial Committee to have a definite percentage of all collections made in Florence Nightingale's name on May 12th?
9. A good publicity person would be required to write up the Scheme to present to the public.

not agreed →

With regard to (1), Mrs. Carter said that she was not in a position to say what the League would do in regard to this matter - she had come to hear what was proposed. It was doubtful whether financial support would be forthcoming which would enable the League to carry on the present scheme, and provided that the Committee set up to manage the Scheme were International, as outlined in Miss Nutting's letter, and that education was carried on on the lines laid down by the League, she was of opinion that it might be willing to accede to the suggestion.

The remaining questions were agreed to in principle with the exception of (8) which was deleted.

After further discussion it was agreed that the International Council of Nurses and the League of Red Cross Societies should be asked to co-operate in founding such Memorial to Florence Nightingale, and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Lloyd Still and Miss Musson were asked to draft some more definite scheme to be put before the Council of the League.

Mrs. Carter undertook to forward to Sir Arthur Stanley an outline of the Scheme as now carried out by the League for incorporation in the draft.

A further meeting would be called by Sir Arthur when the draft was ready for consideration. It was suggested that when this had been done the President of the International Council of Nurses should be asked to forward the proposal officially to the Council of the League.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Lloyd Still, and Miss Musson met at 39, Portland Place, on 20th January, 1932, and drew up the following introduction and outline of a Scheme.

Draft.

Introduction.

A proposal to found a permanent International Memorial to Florence Nightingale was adopted by the International Council of Nurses at a meeting held in Cologne in 1912

Owing to the Great War and other causes no action could be taken to carry out this proposal in a practical manner, but at the meeting of the Grand Council of the International Council of Nurses held in Montreal in 1929 the Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee was re-constituted, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick being appointed Chairman.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the International Council of Nurses in Geneva in 1931, Mrs. Fenwick submitted a Report from this Committee together with letters from Miss Adelaide Nutting, which, in view of their valuable suggestions are appended hereto. The following Recommendation was unanimously adopted:

"that the Foundation should be in London, that it should be of an international character, and a living memorial, not a museum. The suggestion which appeals most to the Directors assembled in Geneva is that the Memorial should take the form of an endowed foundation for post-graduate nursing education."

At this same meeting of the Board of Directors it was agreed that the Presidents of all the affiliated National Associations of Nurses should be invited to join the Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee.

At the annual meeting of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain Mrs. Bedford Fenwick presented a short report of the meeting and of the Recommendation passed by the Board of Directors of the International Council of Nurses, and made a practical suggestion which was briefly as follows :

That in London there was already the nucleus of such a Formation as approved by the Board of Directors in the International Nursing Courses established at 15 Manchester Square by the League of Red Cross Societies - invaluable work which it would appear might not continue to be carried on by the League unless funds for its support were forthcoming. This situation had been notified to the competent authorities in London by the Secretary-General of the League. She had had an interview with Sir Arthur Stanley, Treasurer of St. Thomas's Hospital and

Chairman of the British Red Cross Society, and Miss Lloyd Still, and had proposed that a delegation of three members from the National Council of Nurses should meet three of the competent authorities of the British Red Cross Societies in consultation to discuss, without prejudice, the possibility of the organization in England of such a Central Committee as recommended by Miss Nutting, with a view to making permanent the International Nursing Centre as the nucleus of the International Memorial to Florence Nightingale. Mrs. Fenwick put before the meeting the following recommendations which were unanimously adopted :

1. To approve the Recommendations of the Board of Directors of the International Council of Nurses;
2. To approve a Consultation of equal numbers with the competent Red Cross authorities in London associated with the International Nursing Courses at 15, Manchester Square, London, and to elect three representatives to attend such Consultation.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Lloyd Still and Miss Musson were then elected to represent the National Council of Nurses at the Consultation.

Informal consultations have since been held by invitation of Sir Arthur Stanley, between the following :-

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President, National Council of Nurses of Great Britain; Founder and Hon. President of the International Council of Nurses, and Chairman of the Florence Nightingale Committee of the International Council of Nurses.

Miss Lloyd Still, Matron, St. Thomas's Hospital; President of the Nightingale Fellowship, and Vice-President, National Council of Nurses of Great Britain.

Miss Musson, Treasurer, International Council of Nurses, and Member of the Board of Directors.

Dame Sarah Swift, Matron-in-Chief, British Red Cross Society.

Mrs. Maynard Carter, Director of Nursing, League of Red Cross Societies.

Sir Arthur Stanley, Treasurer, St. Thomas's Hospital, and Chairman, British Red Cross Society (In the Chair).

The above representatives now submit the following

Proposals :-

1. That the Council of the League of Red Cross Societies be approached with an invitation to co-operate with the International Council of Nurses with the object of establishing on a permanent basis and further developing the post-graduate educational work for International Nursing Students which it at present carries out in connection with Bedford College for Women (University of London) and the

College of Nursing, as an International Memorial to Florence Nightingale.

Details of the present Scheme are as follows :-

(Here incorporate Mrs. Carter's information)

2. That there shall be a "Florence Nightingale International Committee" on which should be representatives of the International Council of Nurses and of the League of Red Cross Societies in addition to representatives of the Countries throughout the world who take part in the raising of the (? endowment) Fund.
3. That each National Association of Nurses affiliated to the International Council of Nurses and each National Red Cross Society be invited to co-operate in each Country to form an influential Committee to be known as the "Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee" with the object of raising funds for the endowment and development of such International Educational Scheme.
4. That the Fund so raised shall be invested in Trustees (??) and shall stand in the name of the Florence Nightingale International Committee which shall be responsible for the disposal thereof, and/or of the income derived therefrom.
5. That the Scheme be carried out by a Grand Council which shall meet annually in London, on which the International Council of Nurses, the League of Red Cross Societies, and each participating Country should nominate a representative, and which will appoint an Executive Committee to organize the work.
6. That this Executive Committee should be composed of people actively interested in the practical working of the Scheme.