



# Nursing Times

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## The International Course

THE international course under the Florence Nightingale Foundation at Bedford College ended this year on an unusually international note for its closing functions coincided with the meetings of the Grand Council of the International Council of Nurses in London. As a result leading nurses from the various nations were gathered in London and were able to be present. Miss Alexander, vice-president of the International Council of Nurses, addressed the students at their prize-giving and Dean Effie Taylor, president of the International Council, presided over the toast "Welcome to our guests" at the dinner which ended what the students themselves referred to as "our glorious year."

The fame of this international course is becoming greater and greater as year follows year. Founded under the League of Red Cross Societies in 1920 it attracts about 20 students each year from countries all over the world. This year every continent was represented. From the east came nurses from China and India; from the west came nurses from U.S.A. and Canada; from the south nurses from Australia and South Africa; while eight European Countries in addition to Great Britain had their representatives too.

Opening its doors at first to public health nurses, the course now caters also for nurse administrators and nurse educators, and offers to its students not only courses of lectures at Bedford College and the Royal College of Nursing, but also field

### ROYAL CONGRATULATIONS

Marlborough House

Dear Miss Goodall,

I am commanded by Queen Mary to write in reply to your letter of the 6th July and to tell you how *delighted* Her Majesty is to hear that henceforth the College of Nursing is to be the *Royal College of Nursing*!

The new title emphasises the standing that the College has long had not only in this country but all over the world and, as its Patron, the Queen rejoices in the recognition which the King has bestowed on an organisation of such national and international significance.

I am to thank you further for the copy of the *Nursing Times* with its editorial comments on this interesting and happy bestowal and to assure you of Her Majesty's continued interest in the fortunes of the Royal College!

Yours sincerely,  
Cynthia Colville.

experience in the British Isles, on the Continent or overseas as is best fitted to the needs of each individual student.

The value of the course is well recognised. Each year adds to the honours of its past students and many are the important posts which they hold. The course is no easy one, and to the majority of the students, as Miss van Voorthuysen said at the prize-giving, there are a great many difficulties to begin with. To many the hospitals are quite different from those to which they are accustomed. Then there is London with all its distractions and diversions, and finally there is the English language. How

many of us would care to study psychology in a foreign tongue?

And yet year by year the result is the same. In a few weeks out of a group of diverse students of different nationalities, different customs, different backgrounds, different religions, a happy family is quickly made and the students find in their common interest in their common profession something which breaks down all bounds of nationalism and unites them in a group of ardent seekers after what is best in our profession of nursing.

Miss Alexander, vice president of the International Council of Nurses, in her address to the students last week reminded them of the inestimable value of their lecture and field work and even more of the contacts and friendships formed. She suggested that the course was contributing

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to the universal peace all long to see and wis that politicians of all countries might come live in International House and Bedford Col so that they might also learn to see each otl problems and points of view and recognise ... common humanity of every race. She thought th would be the quickest means of establishing peac "It is the duty of every woman to work for peac and above all to pray for peace," said Miss Alexander, "especially nurses, who can exert a profound influence on those with whom they come into contact."



Miss Alexander reminded them that times were changing and that whereas in the past nurses were confined to private houses and hospital wards to-day, with the changes in conditions and working hours, they had more advantages and wider responsibilities. It was only logical to expect that this would lead to better care of the patient, remembering that every inch of the way had been fought by nurses for nurses.

The profession had been accused of narrow-mindedness. This was sometimes justified in the past when there was no time to spare for anything but the daily round and common task. These days were past. With shorter hours the nurse must think of leisure hour activities. Many activities were complimentary to the nursing profession.



Nurses often neglected their duties as citizens in the past and knew little of social conditions, public health laws and laws of general hygiene. To-day the nurse had time to take part in the social life of the community in which she lived and should aim at citizenship in its best and widest sense. "It is a mistake for nurses to specialise too much. Wide knowledge is desirable to make the nurse indispensable to community life."

This necessitated some reorganisation of the nurse's training. The nurse must be familiar with the care of health as well as the care of the sick. Many countries had successfully revised their curriculum in this direction.



Out of this course the students pass carrying new ideals to their various countries. They find real stimulation in the fact that their common difficulties bind them together in human sympathy. Miss Alexander reminded them as she concluded her delightful address that "The King speaking at the Guildhall recently said that the first and deepest impression that his tour had made was that in this world of mass production human feeling is the most potent of all forces." This force bound the students together and made the course a potent factor in the establishment of international understanding and world peace.

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# Topical Notes

## Dirty Air versus Clean Water

ATMOSPHERIC pollution was one of the subjects discussed during the Royal Sanitary Institute Congress at Scarborough last week. The Earl of Harewood, during his inaugural address as president of the congress, questioned whether the public health had not suffered as much during the past 100 years from dirty air as it had gained from clean water. "The physique of growing children cannot be satisfactory so long as that heavy cloud smoke and filth which covers our most populous areas contaminates the air," he said. Mr. J. H. Chief smoke inspector for the Sheffield, Rotherham and District Smoke Abatement Society, said that most people agreed that the use of raw coal was wasteful and dirty, and appealed to inspectors for local authorities to take a more active part in preventing pollution of the atmosphere. We hope to give a full account of a health visitor's impressions of the conference in our Public Health Number of July 22. College meetings during the week are reported on supplement page xix.

## Pre-Nursing Courses

At the recent conference of Headmistresses, Miss Drummond of the North London Collegiate School outlined the pre-nursing courses which are being planned in some schools. The headmistresses hope that many girls who wish to become nurses

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