

THE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE INTERNATIONAL  
FOUNDATION

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A new international institution which is likely to prove of the utmost value in providing facilities for advanced nursing training for future leaders of the nursing profession throughout the world, came into existence on July 5th, when the Florence Nightingale International Foundation was inaugurated in London.

The purpose of the Foundation is to provide post-graduate nursing education, on a permanent basis, for a selected group of fully trained professional nurses, drawn from those who stand in the forefront of their profession in all countries. The Foundation will be governed by a Grand Council comprising representatives of the International Council of Nurses, the League of Red Cross Societies, and the Nightingale Memorial Committees formed, or to be formed, in each country, to further the purposes of the Foundation. Eighteen such Committees have already been constituted.

At the meeting held at Manchester Square on July 5th .....was elected President of the Foundation, and the following were appointed Vice-Presidents:

The interest which the Foundation presents is greatly enhanced by the fact that its work will begin at once. Itx takes

over, as the basis of a programme which will no doubt be considerably expanded in course of time, the international courses for nurses conducted in London until last year, under the auspices of the League of Red Cross Societies. During the past twelve months these courses have been carried on by a Provisional Committee including representatives of the International Council of Nurses and the League of Red Cross Societies, and this Committee, in handing over to the General Council of the Foundation, has been able to report that the arrangements for continuing the courses during the year 1934-35 have been duly made, their financing assured, and twenty nurses with suitable qualifications nominated to participate.

As in previous years, the educational work in connexion with the courses is being undertaken by Bedford College for Women (University of London) in conjunction with the College of Nursing.

The Secretary General of the League of Red Cross Societies, Mr. Ernest J. Swift, announced at the inaugural meeting on July 5th, that the League is presenting to the Foundation the equipment and lease of the house at 15, Manchester Square, as a home for the students taking the courses.

The opportunity which has been taken to base the work of the Foundation on that previously done by the League of Red Cross Societies, so that it is a going concern from the beginning, should greatly facilitate the task of the different National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committees which have undertaken

responsibility for raising the endowment fund. For the present the courses each year will require to be financed by the raising of scholarships (of £250 each). To endow the Foundation on an adequate basis, a special fund of £200,000 will be required. The Committees which have been formed in the United States for the purpose are already energetically at work. One of them, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Draper of the American Red Cross, is endeavouring to obtain donations this year to the amount of £20,000.

The Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of Great Britain, of which Sir Arthur Stanley is Chairman, is also busy with plans for raising substantial sums.

The credit for giving concrete form to the plan for a permanent international memorial to Florence Nightingale (a plan which was first meted in the International Council of Nurses as long ago as 1912) belongs chiefly to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, the veteran leader of the nursing profession in Great Britain, who has for years been a moving spirit in the International Council. Realization of the scheme has been made possible through the keen interest shown by Sir Arthur Stanley and the British Red Cross, by Mr. Swift, Secretary General of the League of Red Cross Societies, by Dame Alicia Lloyd Still, President of the International Council of Nurses and her predecessor Mademoiselle Chaptal, and by other leaders in Red Cross and nursing circles. The co-operative attitude of the Red Cross League, with its membership of 59 national Red Cross Societies, has been, perhaps, the most important of all.

Those present at the meeting on July 5th, included:

ment of her life has been to secure proper training for Irish nurses, and proper registration and recognition for them when trained."

Miss Huxley's professional interests and work, however, extend far beyond Ireland, and it may be truly said that for the last fifty years there has been no forward movement in nursing organisation in which she has not been a pioneer. She was associated with the work for State Registration of Nurses of the Royal British Nurses' Association, the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, supporting them by her wise judgment, clear insight, and financial generosity. She frequently came over to London to attend public meetings and deputations when the interests of her profession demanded it, even during the Great War, when crossing from Dublin to Holyhead entailed very considerable risk to life.

She was appointed by the Government in 1920 a member of the first General Nursing Council for Ireland.

Miss Huxley's connection with the International Council of Nurses has been intimate from its foundation in London in 1899, when she supported Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's proposition, "That steps be taken to organise an International Council of Nurses," and she has attended many of its Congresses.

Honoured and beloved, there is no name which will add greater lustre to the list of Vice-Presidents of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation than that of Margaret Huxley.

#### Miss Bergljot Larsson.

A most popular and respected member of the International Council of Nurses is Miss Bergljot Larsson, President of the Norwegian Nurses' Association. Her appearance at the Banquet at Cologne in 1912, when the proposal of an Educational Memorial to Florence Nightingale was made, was memorable, for she then announced that the Norwegian Nurses had no Association, but after the inspiration of that Congress they were going home to form one, which they promptly successfully did. Although, owing to the disruption of the Great War, they were not formally admitted to affiliation with the I.C.N. until the meeting of the Executive Committee in Copenhagen in 1922, Sister Larsson, as President of the Association, always kept in close touch with the International Council of Nurses and its aspirations which she made her own. She is specially sound upon the necessity for the three years' standard of training and her voice has on several occasions been earnestly raised in opposition to any lowering of that standard. Having had the pleasure of visiting the Headquarters of the Norwegian Nurses' Association in 1923, I am able to realise the extent and efficiency of its organisation, and the interpretation placed by its President on international friendship which is deep and real.

Miss Larsson is also a leader of nursing in Scandinavia in connection with the important Association of Nurses of the North.

She attended the Congresses of the I.C.N. in Helsingfors and Montreal, and took an active part in the meetings of the Board of Directors.

Miss Larsson was present at the meeting of the Board of Directors of the I.C.N. in Geneva in 1931 when Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Chairman of its Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee, presented its report, and at which the decision was taken that the Memorial should take the form of an endowed Foundation for post-graduate nursing education.

She is one of the five Delegates elected to represent the International Council of Nurses on the Grand Council of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation, in which capacity she attended the Inaugural Meeting of the Foundation in London in July, where her sweet, picturesque, and lovable personality was greatly appreciated.

#### Dr. Alice Masarykova.

Dr. Alice Masarykova, President of the Czechoslovak Red Cross, has done a great deal in Czechoslovakia to raise the standard of nursing. Through the influence of the Red Cross, the State School of Nursing at Prague was founded. It was due to her initiative and her generosity in making the first contribution that a Residence for the students taking the International Courses was first opened at 15, Manchester Square.

#### Mlle. Lucie Odier.

Mlle. Lucie Odier is a member of the Swiss Nurses' Association which is affiliated to the Swiss Red Cross. She worked during the war in France and Switzerland and later became Directress of the Public Health Nursing Service of the Genevoise Red Cross.

In 1930 she was appointed Member of the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva and represented the Committee at the Congresses of the International Council of Nurses in Montreal in 1929 and in Paris and Brussels in 1933.

#### Miss Venny Snellman.

Miss Venny Snellman, President of the National Council of Nurses of Finland, is a well-known and active figure in the International Council of Nurses. When it met in Helsingfors in 1925 she was one of the four official delegates of the Nurses' Association of Finland, and was at that time working in connection with General Mannerheim's League of Child Welfare.

She was a student of the 1921-22 Public Health Course organised by the League of Red Cross Societies at Bedford College, and attended the meeting of the International Council of Nurses—Paris-Brussels—in 1933, when the Board of Directors unanimously adopted the Draft Scheme for the Florence Nightingale International Foundation.

As President of the National Council of Nurses of Finland, she attended the recent Inaugural Meeting in London of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation, and as President of the Association of Old Students of the International Course at Bedford College presented to Sir Arthur Stanley, as Treasurer of the Foundation, on their behalf, a cheque for over £272 as their contribution to the Foundation, thus giving a practical demonstration of her enthusiasm and forcefulness in this relation.

#### The Marchesa di Targiani Giunti.

The Marchesa di Targiani Giunti is Directress of the Nursing Service of the Italian Red Cross, and as such has done much to raise the standard of nursing in Italy. She played a prominent part during the war, and later during the earthquakes which devastated large parts of Italy. She entertained, most hospitably, the members of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain who attended the International Tuberculosis Congress in Rome in 1928, and it was through her good offices that its President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, and Mrs. Cecil Carter had the honour of presentation to Signor Mussolini at an evening Reception. She is a member of the Nursing Advisory Committee of the League of Red Cross Societies and has presided at its meetings.

Those who have had the privilege of seeing something of the work done in the Roman Campagna by the Public Health Nurses of the Italian Red Cross, amongst the primitive people who descend from the high mountains of the Abruzzi for six months in the year, and are cultivating the land, which is the surest way of abolishing the mosquito, realise the great value of the work of these nurses in lonely outposts. The Marchesa di Targiani Giunti is thus Directress of a Nursing Service of the first importance.

#### HON. TREASURER.

##### Sir Arthur Stanley.

The Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, G.B.E., M.V.O., LL.D., Treasurer of St. Thomas's Hospital, is well known in the Nursing World as Chairman of the British Red Cross Society, of the Joint Council of the B.R.C.S. and the Order of St. John, and Chairman of the College of Nursing. Sir Arthur Stanley has taken the kindest interest in the proposal of the International Council of Nurses for the co-operation of the International Council of Nurses and the League of Red Cross Societies for the organisation and endowment of an Educational Memorial to Miss Florence Nightingale. He has acted as Chairman of the Provisional Committee of representatives of the two bodies which, in affiliation, have brought the Foundation into being and his expert chairmanship must be recognised as the predominating factor in the success of the initial proceedings which have achieved such a happy result.

MARGARET BREAY.

(Miss Breay desires to offer thanks to Mrs. Cecil Carter, Chief of the Nursing Division of the League of Red Cross Societies, for her help with information concerning the Vice-Presidents associated with the League. We also thank Mrs. Carter for our illustrations on pages 200 and 201.)