

SIXTEENTH INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CONFERENCE

REPORT OF THE

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION.

ON the occasion of the last International Red Cross Conference in Tokio in 1934, the Florence Nightingale International Foundation had recently been inaugurated. This Report therefore covers the period since that date.

The Florence Nightingale International Foundation is an endowed educational trust for Nurses, which was founded in July, 1934, as an International Memorial to Florence Nightingale. It has received most encouraging support from the National Red Cross Societies, and in many countries the Red Cross have helped in the formation of Florence Nightingale Memorial Committees which are raising money for the memorial and are sending selected nurses to London for study.

The National Red Cross Societies of the following countries have participated in the work :—

Australia	Lithuania
Belgium	Luxembourg
Bulgaria	Netherlands
Canada	New Zealand
Czechoslovakia	Norway
Finland	Poland
France	Roumania
Germany	Siam
Great Britain	South Africa
Greece	Sweden
India	Switzerland
Japan	Turkey
Latvia	United States.

Since its inauguration, the primary work of the Foundation has been the continuation of the International Nursing Courses at Bedford College for Women and the College of Nursing, London. The management of these courses was transferred to the Foundation at its inauguration by the League of Red Cross Societies. The League handed over at the same time the remainder of the lease of the students' residence at 15, Manchester Square, together with furniture, library books, and a sum of £2,101 17s. 10d.

Seventy-nine students from twenty-three different countries have followed the Course in the last four years. All but one student have completed the Course, and obtained a certificate.

There have been considerable alterations in the curriculum. These have been made with the object of giving as wide a choice of subjects as possible. There is now only one International Nursing Course, with the possibility of choice within it. Each student must select at least four and not more than six of the listed subjects. One of these must be from the "A" Subjects, *i.e.*, Public Health Nursing, Social Work, Hospital and Training School Administration or Nursing Education. The selection of this "A" Subject governs the practical observation work, and conditions the selection in the other groups.

The rearrangement has proved to be satisfactory and has enabled the Course to be adapted to the students' special requirements. It would be impossible obviously to make the Course so elastic, were it not for the fact that the students admitted are for the most part women of experience who have had the necessary training for their work in their own country.

One other development of importance has been the increased opportunity offered through the scheme to nurses with exceptional academic or other qualifications. Such students, if wishing to study some subject related to their future work which is not included in the curriculum, may have special arrangements made for them through the intercollegiate scheme of the University of London. Two such students have so far availed themselves of this opportunity: Miss Dunbar, M.A. (1935-36, U.S.A.), devoted her year to study of nursing history, and her thesis, entitled "The Origin and Early Development of Two English Training Schools for Nurses," is a definite contribution to the subject.

Miss Ruth V. Wheelock, M.A. (1937-38, U.S.A.), has spent much of her time during the year in following a course on Social Statistics, at University College, under Professor Pearson.

The International Nursing Course has this year obtained recognition by the University of London as a course for Associate students.

STUDY OF FACILITIES IN LONDON FOR ADVANCED NURSING EDUCATION.

In 1936 the Foundation invited four experts, led by Miss Kathleen Russell, of Toronto University, to make a study in London of the facilities for advanced nursing education, and to advise on the future educational policy of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation.

The Study Committee was composed of :—

Miss Helen Dey	Matron and Superintendent of Nursing, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London.
Miss Beatrice Edgell	Emeritus Professor of Psychology, University of London.
Miss Gladys Hillyers	Assistant Matron, St. Thomas's Hospital, London.
Miss Kathleen Russell	Director of School of Nursing, University of Toronto.

Their report was published in May, 1936, after three months' work. The main recommendations of the report were that there be developed in London, a school of nursing able to offer the facilities required by the Foundation's Students; that, if possible, the Education Department of the College of Nursing be developed as such a school, and that until such time as a school of nursing be able to undertake the work, the International Nursing Courses be continued under their present organisation.

The Committee felt it inadvisable that the Foundation should be responsible for any educational work itself, but advised that it should aim to maintain scholarships, to direct students in their choice of studies, to assist in the development of facilities for study, and to maintain a residence for international nurse students. It advised the immediate appointment of a Director of the Foundation, and made certain general proposals for the allocation of the students' fees.

In December, 1936, the Committee of Management were able to inform the member bodies of the Foundation that the College of Nursing and Bedford College for Women had both signified their willingness to co-operate on the lines suggested by the Study Committee, and the matter was left for full discussion by the Grand Council of the Foundation when it met in July, 1937.

The Third Ordinary General Meeting of the Grand Council was held in London on July 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 1937. Of the twenty-one National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committees affiliated to the Foundation, eighteen were fully represented, whilst Australia, China, Estonia, and Germany, who had not yet affiliated, were able to send an observer.

Dame Alicia Lloyd Still was re-elected President of the Foundation for the period 1937-39, and Sir Arthur Stanley was re-elected Treasurer.

The following Vice-Presidents were elected :—Miss B. G. Alexander (South Africa), Miss Yuki Inada (Japan), Miss Messolora (Greece).

The chief business of the meeting was the consideration of the Report of the Study Committee, and after full discussion the following resolution was passed :—

“ That the Grand Council, having considered the Report of the Study Committee, authorise the Committee of Management to explore the possibility of developing a school of nursing in London able to offer facilities required by the Foundation for its students.”

FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE FOUNDATION.

Since 1934 £26,172 5s. 3d. has been subscribed to the Florence Nightingale Memorial. Of this sum, £10,129 13s. 8d. is held by the Trustees in the Endowment Fund, which yields an income of approximately £3 per cent.; £15,077 11s. 7d. has been paid in scholarships for students, and the remaining £965 has been given towards maintenance expenses.

The following countries and special groups have contributed:—National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committees of the five Australian States, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Eire, Finland, France, Great Britain, Iceland, India, Japan, Latvia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippine Islands, Poland, South Africa, Sweden, and U.S.A.; Bulgarian Nurses' Association, League of Red Cross Societies, Luxembourg Nursing Association, Northern Countries of Europe, Old Internationals' Association, Rockefeller Foundation, Society of Russian Nurses Abroad, St. Thomas's Hospital Nightingale Fund, Swiss Red Cross Society, Toronto General Hospital, and certain private individuals.

There is no doubt of the world-wide interest which is being shown in this Movement. The example of Florence Nightingale is an inspiration to-day to nursing and Red Cross work the world over. The opportunities for comparative study of nursing problems, which the Foundation offers, are appreciated wherever nursing is established. While expressing our gratitude for the generous support given by the Red Cross Societies in the past four years, we look forward to an even closer co-operation with them in the future through our affiliated National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committees.
