

REPORT

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SUBMITTED BY THE

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

The Florence Nightingale International Foundation is the International Memorial to Florence Nightingale. It is a joint activity of the League of Red Cross Societies and the International Council of Nurses.

It is an independent organisation governed by a Grand Council on which the League and the International Council of Nurses each have five seats, and the National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committees two seats each.

The Fifth Ordinary General Meeting of the Grand Council of the F.N.I.F. was held in London in September 1946. It received with satisfaction the resolution passed by the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies in July 1946 expressing the decision of the Board to continue its active participation in the work.

At that meeting, Miss Mary I. Lambie (New Zealand) was elected President, and Mr. D.A. Stirling (Great Britain) Hon. Treasurer.

The new Committee of Management unanimously elected Miss Yvonne Hentsch as its Chairman for the ensuing two years.

National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committees

At the present time the F.N.I.F. has eighteen active Florence Nightingale Memorial Committees. The National Committees in two other countries, although not active, continue to correspond through their Honorary Officers. The Headquarters also has some correspondence with certain countries where no Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee has been formed but which communicate with regard to students either through the L.O.R.C.S. or through the I.C.N.

Finance

The International Memorial to Florence Nightingale was given the form of an endowed trust for post-graduate nursing education in 1934. The funds of that Trust stand to-day at £ 32,561 which have been invested by the Trustees and yield an income of approximately £ 950 per annum.

During the last two years, since the Foundation has resumed activities, this income has been insufficient to maintain the office and subscription towards current expenses have been sought from the National Florence Nightingale Committees. These subscriptions have been most generously contributed. Since September 1946 £ 1,718 from twelve National Florence Nightingale Committees or National Red Cross Societies has been subscribed in all. As a result the F.N.I.F. is this year working on a balanced budget for the first time since the war.

At the Fifth Ordinary General Meeting of the Grand Council which was held in London in September 1946, it was decided to have an objective study made of the Foundation, its organisation, procedures and programme with a view to adapting the organisation to suit the changed conditions in the world.

It was decided that while the study was being made the Foundation should continue its temporary programme of activities which was started immediately after the war. The F.N.I.F. has therefore, since 1946 assisted nurses in post-graduate studies outside their own countries. These studies have been either post-graduate courses provided at recognised Post-Graduate Schools of Nursing or planned programmes of study and observation in some special field of interest. During this period forty-two students, as listed, have been accepted as F.N.I.F. students and have followed an approved programme:-

South Africa	2	India	3
Australia	19	Norway	1
China	1	New Zealand	1
Denmark	2	Netherlands	1
Great Britain	6	Poland	1
Greece	1	Sweden	3
		Czechoslovakia	1

Of these students thirty-six received scholarships awarded by through the Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of their own countries, three received scholarships from the New Zealand Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee for nurses from war devastated countries, one received a scholarship from the British Red Cross Society given to Greece and one received a scholarship from the L.O.R.C.S.

Of the forty-two students, one has studied in England and the U.S.A., eleven have selected to study in Canada or the U.S.A., twenty-nine in England or Scotland and one in New Zealand. It is to be noted that nurses from the British Commonwealth and from central Europe have tended to study in England, whilst those from the Scandinavian countries and Great Britain have selected the American Continent. The selection rests with the student and the Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee selecting her for study and the Headquarters merely carries out their wishes in this respect and is available for advice if required.

A Prospectus has been published since 1947 giving the types of study available to F.N.I.F. students and the qualifications required for that study.

Thus the Foundation during the past eighteen months, has not only found the money for forty-two students to study abroad but has also arranged a programme for them to suit their particular needs, and has awarded them the Statement of the Foundation on the satisfactory completion of their period of study.

The Statement is awarded either after satisfactory completion of a regular course leading to a Diploma or Certificate or, in the case of those taking less organised studies, on the submission within three months of completion, of a satisfactory report on the study, containing a reasoned statement of the student's observations on the particular subject she has studied.

The Old Internationals' Association has agreed to admit to the Association of old students any nurse who has been awarded the Statement.

In estimating the gains and losses of the present programme compared with the pre 1939 programme when F.N.I.F. students attend one of the International Nursing courses at Bedford College and the College of Nursing in London, one can say that the present programme gives a greater variety of choice to the student and therefore a greater variation in the standard of work available to her and required of her, but it also scatters the students and they no longer have the advantage of living and studying together as an international group.

This may be overcome in time by the provision of residences in certain centres normally used by F.N.I.F. students and one such residence will be opened this year in London under the management of the Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of Great Britain.

As a temporary programme one may say that it has provided opportunity for foreign studies to selected nursing leaders at a time when those younger leaders are in real need of that opportunity and it has provided it under controlled conditions and under the leadership of a group of international nursing experts.

The Study of the Foundation which was initiated by the Grand Council in 1946, was undertaken by two educational experts: H.R. Hamley PhD, MA, MSc; Professor of Education, University of London and Muriel Uprichard Ph.D, M.A. It was completed in April this year. It was circulated to member organisations in June and will be discussed by the Grand Council of the Foundation when it meets on September 15th next.

The League of Red Cross Societies referred this Study to its Nursing Advisory Committee which has considered the findings and made a recommendation which will be placed before you for consideration.

The Study emphasises the necessity for a simplification in the organisation of the Florence Nightingale International Memorial and the desirability of placing it within the organisation of the International Council of Nurses.

It points out that the I.C.N. has undertaken the overall responsibility for nursing education in the international field and that the existence of an independent F.N.I.F. divides this responsibility, and is liable to handicap both bodies. It therefore recommends that the F.N.I.M. be reconstituted and become the Florence Nightingale Memorial Council within the I.C.N. under the general control of its Board of Directors but managed by a small Florence Nightingale Memorial Council which shall have a large measure of autonomy, and shall handle the income from the Trust Fund of the Foundation as well as other money which may be subscribed for the Memorial for specific long term educational programmes in nursing education.

This solution to the undoubted administrative problems which have faced the Florence Nightingale International Foundation since the war, is now being considered by all member associations of the organisation.