

THE BARONESS MANNERHEIM.

President of the Finnish Nurses' Association.

Each International Congress of Nurses has had its special discovery. In Berlin, in 1904, the nurses of other nations first came into personal contact with Sister Agnes Karll, with whose work they were nevertheless acquainted. Baroness Mannerheim was the discovery of the Paris Conference. There were many conjectures as to the personality of the stately lady in nurse's uniform, wearing the Finnish national colours, in the Musée Sociale on the first morning. The wonder changed to something like amazement when this lady rose to speak. She was Baroness Mannerheim, President of the Finnish Nurses' Association, an association of the very existence of which most of those present were unaware, but concerning which they were speedily enlightened. They learnt also that the Surgical Hospital, Helsingfors, of which Baroness Mannerheim is Matron, and of which they did know something, as a notice of it had previously appeared in THE

BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, has its own preliminary training school, and that altogether Finland is well advanced both as to practical training and nursing organisation.

Baroness Mannerheim told the Conference that the Finnish Nurses' Association had been in existence for ten years, and that the training of nurses in Finland was first begun in 1886 in connection with the opening of the Surgical

Clinique of the University of Helsingfors. At that time one year's training was the period decided upon. At first the probationers lived in their own homes, but this was found unsatisfactory, and a home for them was opened, residence still being optional. Then a Finnish

nurse in England had an opportunity of talking with Miss Nightingale on nursing matters, and she advised compulsory residence for the probationers, and gave a donation to be used for the home when this was accomplished, which was done in 1896. The preliminary training school has proved very helpful and satisfactory, and the Finnish Nurses' Association is an educational factor, standing for advanced standards of education and training.

Baroness Mannerheim received her professional training at St. Thomas's Hospital, London, and speaks English fluently. Since the Paris Conference the Finnish Nurses' Association has established its own nursing journal, and *Epione* is now added to the increasing and ever-welcome list of the journals controlled and edited by nurses. *Epione*,

whose name the Finnish nurses have adopted, was the wife of Æsculapius, the God of Physic, and the mother of Hygeia, Goddess of Health, Iaso, Goddess of Recovery, and Panacea, the all-healing goddess.

We are glad to know that amongst the delegates sent by the Finnish Nurses' Association to the Congress is Mrs. Olga Lackstrom, editor of *Epione*. She will be very welcome.



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