

## AN INTERNATIONAL WELCOME.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, the President of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, has received the following letter from Miss Violetta Thurstan, dated October 12th, from Copenhagen. It is very happy evidence of the benefit of professional affiliation between the National Councils of Nurses of the world in international friendship. We have no doubt that the Danish Council in giving their charming welcome to British Nurses, had grateful memories of their reception in London at the meeting of the International Council in 1909, when Mrs. Henny Tscherning and a full complement of Danish delegates helped to make the gathering such a splendid success.

HOTEL COSMOPOLITE,  
COPENHAGEN,

October 12th.

Dear Mrs. Fenwick,—  
I think you will like to know that we have arrived safely in Copenhagen, after an adventurous journey right through Germany. Every British nurse was ordered out of Brussels by the German Governor, though it was full of wounded and they were pressed for nurses. We were put into a military train composed of third class carriages with two soldiers in each. It was a very long journey, it took us thirty hours to go from Brussels to Cologne. The last time I was at Cologne was at the Congress, and I could not help thinking what a contrast it was—then, fêtes, banquets, receptions—welcome on every side; now, a prisoner closely guarded. We did not know in the least where we were going, but at Cologne we were put into another train for Hamburg and then went through the Kiel Canal—very heavily guarded—windows shut and blinds drawn down. How thankful we were to arrive at the Danish frontier you can perhaps imagine, and our joy at seeing all the friendly, smiling faces. Ever since then we have simply had the time of our lives. I have always been glad to belong to the International Council of Nurses, but I never knew till now all it meant. The Secretary, Miss Jessen, called at once and arranged a perfect

orgy of enjoyment for us. She and the President have been simply untiring in arranging everything for us. The first day seventy of us went out to the Rigs Hospital, a very beautiful hospital, only four years old, with some of the most charming wards I have ever seen. They gave us tea in the Nurses' Home, and showed us everything, and ended up by presenting us with photographs of the hospital. On Sunday another visit to the Bispelberg Hospital was arranged. The Matron there is one of the delegates who was at Cologne, and speaks English perfectly and took us round and explained everything. The hospital is only one year old and is the only hospital here where everything is under the direct control of one Matron. And everything

is done with only one aim in view, and that is absolute efficiency in every detail. I have been over a great many hospitals in my time, but have never before seen anything so perfect. Again, a most beautiful tea was provided for us, and there were some little Union Jacks on the table—a charming thought, which touched us very much. It was very interesting to see all the English papers and magazines in the Matron's room. I saw THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING for the first time for two months.

To-day the Danish Council of Nurses arranged a most beautiful reception for us at the Palace Hotel. Dr. Norman-Hansen, the President (Mrs. Tscherning), the Secretary (Miss Jessen), and other members of the Council were there to greet us, and we had most beautiful music, a band, and then violin, and three exquisite solos, and finished by singing

English National songs, "Home, Sweet Home," and "Coming Through the Rye." I can't tell you how charming they were to us all. You will be interested in the enclosed poem Dr. Norman-Hansen wrote for us, and of which we all had a copy. He made us a delightful little speech of welcome at the end, and I thanked them all as well as I was able in the name of our party, and of the English National Council of Nurses. We talked over the Cologne Congress afterwards, and they all spoke of you and Miss Breay and wished to be remembered to you when I got back. They are the most delightful people, so kind and



MRS. HENNY TSCHERNING, PRESIDENT  
OF THE DANISH COUNCIL OF NURSES.

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