

## THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

In a kind little letter Mrs. Henny Tscherning writes from Stockholm of the recent meeting of the International Council of Nurses held under her presidency at Copenhagen. Referring to the decision to meet in Helsingfors, she says: "I am content with the resolution, and hope that the small countries will have benefit from it and of our Meeting. It is so wonderful, when nurses are coming from North and South, East and West, we are not at all strangers to each other; we are as a great family, and immediately friends; we have the same troubles, hopes and ideals. . . . I will end with love to Miss Pearse, Miss Cutler, Miss Child, and Miss Lamb, and best love to yourself."

Countess Louise d'Ursel, of the *Fédération Nationale des Infirmières Belges*, writes from Brussels: "We are so glad to be now members of the International Council, and it was charming to meet the delegates of other countries at Copenhagen. Since we came back we have already felt how much the fact of being received into the Council gives us strength, and has caused people to consider our Association in a very different way than before." Countess d'Ursel sends a kind invitation to us to visit Brussels to see the hospitals and nursing schools.

We shall by degrees give some report of the wonderful progress of the international movement in Norway, Belgium and China. In South Africa the South African Trained Nurses' Association is rapidly knitting up trained nurses in a truly national organisation, with branches in all the States of the Union, with its own official organ, the *South African Nursing Record*. Miss J. C. Child has been appointed Overseas President, so will keep our colleagues in South Africa in touch with the international movement in Europe. Her charming kindness, loyalty and wit make her a most valuable representative and link.

### IMPRESSIONS OF THE COPENHAGEN MEETING.

Dear Founder and Hon. President, — We have returned from our fourteen days in Denmark to our dear incomparable London, dear London, which I have always of late years thought so clean, compared to my early hospital days, now I find in comparing it with Copenhagen it must surely be dirty; for the moment I return clean gloves are soiled with one outing, whereas in Copenhagen I wore a pair of white gloves for a week and they were still clean, but one must not compare. One thing was very forcibly brought to my notice, traffic—not so enormous as here—but still rather a question to think seriously of when crossing a square, for instance; although well provided with islands, still, owing to cycle traffic, and larger traffic, one needs to look well to right and left every time. Curiously enough, to me the "king of the road" seems the bicycle; everything seems to halt to let the hundreds of bicycles pass by one. All the business office girls

and women seem to use them. I felt that if one could only borrow one, just to wheel it, when needing to cross a road, it would ensure safety. I notice too, that the hospitals all had good stabling for the staffs' cycles.

I am sure you have had reams of detail as to the Congress from the delegates; it was teeming with interest and the greatest hospitality everywhere; it was the first Congress I have attended where only the reporter represented the superior sex—everything was carried out during business hours with great precision and thoroughness.

The Lady of the Chair did not find it difficult to manage the Committees, and minute details, legal or otherwise, were brought to a finality in the most business-like manner.

The hospitals round which we were escorted on a tour of inspection, were the last word in equipment of latest ingenuity, and the comfort of the sick in every way evident. There seems no lack of nursing staff, and in the Municipal Hospital they had the eight-hour day.

The lectures we were invited to listen to, were wonderfully illustrated by cinema. The Recreation Home in the suburbs, on sea-shore, for the nurses, all that a tired mind and body could need; in fact Denmark has left nothing to chance, it is organised, and the result is marvellous. The whole time we were there we were taken the greatest care of, most perfect hospitality and kind thoughts always apparent. And how we were fed; it seemed to me that, apart from our four or five hours' morning consecutive work, we were nourished hourly with food, most perfectly-cooked. Surely every one in Copenhagen must be diet-trained and expert in domestic science.

The few doctors we met were those who escorted us round their hospitals and were charming men. The only other men were the waiters in the hotels; they all seemed most courteous and of a superior type. And what made the whole Congress a grand success—everyone spoke our language—English; and to be able to entertain in the language of their guests must, of course in any case make for understanding. But we did want you and Miss Breay with us. I am not saying this just to make my letter full.

This consciousness of the need of you two and Miss Lavinia Dock, our first pioneer officers was daily felt and spoken of; and the wonderful thoroughness and kindness of our President, Mrs. Henny Tscherning, and her assistants, made us realise how much you have done for us by your untiring devotion all these years in founding and building up our International Council.

So although not with us, we, your faithful co-workers felt your influence and help, and are delighted to come back to our incomparable London and its work and toil.

Yours, dear Mrs. Fenwick,

Very sincerely,

J. C. CHILD, *Registered Nurse*,  
Overseas President, South African  
Trained Nurses' Association.

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