

# Royal British Nurses' Association.

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## SCANDINAVIAN VISITORS AT THE CLUB.

We had very great pleasure this month in welcoming to the R.B.N.A. Club two distinguished Scandinavian nurses—Miss Elisabet Lind and Miss Marta Brandberg. Miss Lind, who is Hon. Secretary of the Swedish Nurses' Association, holds a post in a very large factory in Stockholm, an appointment which appears to be analogous to that of Welfare Superintendent in this country. Miss Marta Brandberg is engaged in welfare work in the homes very much on the lines of health visiting work here.

Miss Lind and Miss Brandberg, with considerable enterprise, went to Oxford for a fortnight "to study the language." They worked hard at this and certainly made splendid use of their time, judging from the fluency with which they were able to converse when they arrived in London. There, again, no time was wasted; each morning they set off on a series of expeditions, and there were few of our famous buildings and collections to which they did not pay a visit; the Wallace Collection and the tomb of Rahere were a special delight to them. But naturally they wished also to visit places of interest from a professional point of view. They had luncheon, and then a long and interesting afternoon with Miss Pearse, Superintendent of the L.C.C. Nurses, who took them over the County Hall and explained to them much about the work of School Nursing which, under her administration, has developed into such an enormously important part of the Public Health work of our great city. Afterwards Miss Pearse very kindly took Miss Lind and Miss Brandberg over the Tower of London; but this seems to have left rather a painful impression of all the sad memories which cling about its courtyards and austere grey walls. Both ladies visited also St. Thomas's and St. Bartholomew's Hospitals, and had much to say in admiration of those great institutions and of the courtesy and kindness which they met with there. A visit which was naturally of particular interest to Miss Lind was that which they made to the factory of Messrs. Bryant & May. Miss Parsons took them over this and then most kindly brought them back to Queen's Gate by a route which allowed of their

seeing something of the strange life of the East End of London.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Mrs. Campbell Thomson, Miss Aughton, Miss Lord, Miss Pearse, and several other members of the profession who are interested in nursing organisation, made a point of coming to the Club to meet our Scandinavian visitors, and to compare notes on nursing conditions in our respective countries. Miss Lind and Miss Brandberg strongly advocate high standards of nursing education and are firmly opposed to any suggestion that there should be a reduction of the three years' training as the minimum qualification for nursing work. In Sweden a splendid system exists for the inspection of nursing schools, one which has proved very effective in maintaining a uniform standard and in promoting a general efficiency; it is to be noted, too, that the position of inspector is held by a trained nurse, which is as it should be from the point of view both of the public and the nurses.

Nurses intending to take up positions as Matrons take a higher course of training for one year, and for this a grant of money is made by the State, and nurses intending to take up other special branches can also take certain special courses of a shorter interval.

The Swedish Nurses' Association was founded in 1910. In connection with it there is a Home, which is run very much on the lines of nurses' clubs and hostels in this country. The Association has various sections for nurses in different branches of the profession; it holds a general meeting each month, except in the holiday season, and many lectures and conferences take place throughout the year. The Association is fortunate in having as its President Miss Bertha Wellin, a trained nurse and a member of the Swedish Parliament.

A system of State Registration is established in Sweden, but it appears to be more on the lines of a governmental department than that which exists in this country.

As regards the economic position, the private nurses in Sweden appear to be much in the same position as our own; a comparison of figures indicated that their fees and club expenses were much the same as ours. But it appears to us that the position of the hospital nurses and those in other branches is very much more satisfactory than in England; not only do they receive very fair

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)