

Education Committee of the International Council of Nurses, as representative for the Nurses' Association of China.

It will thus be realized that in Miss Gage the International Council of Nurses has a President of high intellectual and professional attainments, and those who had the privilege of meeting her in Helsingfors realise also her dignity, serenity, and great personal charm—a leader who will worthily discharge the duties of the high office to which she has been elected, and anticipate a period of development and growth during her term of office.

CONGRATULATIONS EAST AND WEST.

When by cable the news was flashed from Helsingfors to London that the next International Meeting was to be held in China, and that for the next quadrennial period we were to have a President identified with, and working in, that land of mystery and marvels, no one was more rejoiced than the Founder of the I.C.N., who frankly owns that her appreciation of Chinese ceramic art has given her more exquisite thrills of joy than any other form of pleasure in this world. To realise that the invention of the potter's wheel has been assigned to China, and that ages before civilization made use of it in ancient Egypt, Scythia, Greece or Southern Italy, it was revolving there, gives pause for awe. Chinese historic records make mention of pottery 2698 years before the Christian era, and that Oriental porcelain was made in China some 185 B.C., or 1,600 years before it was known to Western Europe, must make us pause and willingly *how-tow* to the memory of the Emperors of this great and artistic people, whose patronage encouraged the creation of many of the most exquisite treasures in the world.

When we received that cable we peeped into a little cabinet containing "pet bits," and feasted our eyes on "egg shell," fit only to be handled by the gods. We have never had the purse for "ruby backs," with seven enamelled borders more lovely than jewels, but we do possess exquisite specimens of *famille rose*, enamelled with gorgeous peonies and strutting cocks, with golden plumage, aggressive black tails, and ruddy combs.

Of such Ly-Tang in "a vacant and joyless hour" spake thus:

See the fowls how they feed from a basin beneath the rosy flowers of the tree-like peony.

In a fine morning in the spring, when the sun shines bright, and the wind is hushed, the cocks wait upon the hens and display their tails variegated with gold, and strut proudly in their iron spurs, amidst the feathered throng.

And then, as Pepys would write: "To the British Museum" where is to be found a copy of the great Chinese Encyclopædia known as *Kin-ting-ku-kin t'u-shu-tsih-ch'eng*, or, "Complete Collection of Writings and Illustrations Ancient and Modern, drawn up under Imperial sanction." It is comprised in 5,020 volumes, and consists of the entire mass of Chinese literature (novels excepted) extant at the date of its publication, ranging from 1150 B.C. to about the year A.D. 1700.

Any personal service we can render for the welfare of the Chinese people in helping them to attain a high standard of nursing and health is theirs, in gratitude for the delight derived from their artistic genius. Kaoline, petuntse, bronze, gold, pearl, ivory, silk, what people have ever equalled the Chinese in the manipulation thereof? A touch with finger and flame, with chisel, pencil, brush, needle, and spindle, and beauty is evolved as if by magic.

In "these meanwhile" congratulations to our Chinese colleagues, to our new President, Miss Nina D. Gage, and to ourselves, that Nurses East and West will come into closer touch and surely mutually benefit by such association.

E. G. F.

THE JOURNEY OF THE BRITISH DELEGATION

At last the eventful day, so long anticipated, arrived, and the British Delegates to the Meeting and Congress of the International Council of Nurses, convened to meet in Helsingfors on July 20th, entrained at Liverpool Street Station. The Founder of the Association, and President of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, and other well wishers, were on the platform to bid us God-speed, and, with a lovely sheaf of roses and carnations, presented by the President to Miss Breay, tied with the British colours, we left London, with that feeling of exhilaration inseparable from the beginning of a journey into the unknown.

We travelled by way of Harwich, Esbjerg, Copenhagen and Stockholm.

STOCKHOLM.

No sooner had we arrived at Stockholm on July 14th, than we came into touch with what the International Council of Nurses means to its members, and the way in which its object "to afford facilities for the interchange of international hospitality" is interpreted by the Hon. Vice-President (now Associate National Representative) Sister Bertha Wellin, M.P., President of the Swedish Nurses Association, in particular.

As our train drew up to the platform, Sister Bertha came forward with warm greetings, and asking for Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, whose absence was deeply deplored—and extended a cordial invitation to our party to lunch, as the guests of the Swedish Nurses' Association, at an open air Restaurant, promising to call and take us there.

That is typical of the way in which we were received throughout our stay in Sweden. Not only did our kind hostesses entertain us lavishly, but they called for us and conducted us to our destination, put us into the right tram cars, and smoothed the way of the stranger in a strange land on every hand.

The arrangements for lunch were charming, the tables were decorated with flags of various nations, the British Flag having the place of honour in front of the President. Lovely flowers decorated the table, and single roses and carnations were placed before each guest.

It was a very gay and happy function over which Sister Bertha presided, and in the course of which she expressed the great honour and pride felt by the members of the Swedish Nurses' Association in entertaining their colleagues from overseas. It was, she said, a fresh experience to see so many guests from different lands, and the welcome she extended to them came from the heart of Sweden.

Miss Margaret Breay (Hon. Treasurer of the I.C.N.) on behalf of the guests, thanked Sister Bertha, and the Swedish Nurses Association, most warmly for their charming hospitality. On the question being asked by what necromancy they had known when the British delegation would pass through Sweden, the answer was simple, they had read of it in the pages of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

Later we were taken to the Sabbatsberg Hospital, a fine building with long corridors, and soft-toned walls, made bright with lovely plants. We were received by the Matron, Froken Barbara Fvinhufvied, and most hospitably entertained. "Smordbrod," which includes a variety of delicacies, and delicious fruit drinks, formed the repast. Of special interest in this hospital were the Turkish baths, and a crane for lifting helpless patients in and out of baths.

For the next day, Wednesday, July 15th, our kind friends had arranged for us a visit to Badhosellet, a Rest House at Saltsjöbaden, a suburb of Stockholm, reached either by sea or rail. We made the journey there by sea, the steamer route running through one of the most beautiful parts of the Skärgård, an archipelago between Stockholm and the open waters of the Baltic. It was a lovely day and the trip through the channel between the islands was enjoyed to

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