

THE EXHIBITION.

The Exhibition, which was located at Headquarters, was of great interest.

The Prize Essay of 1916 on Child Welfare, written by Miss Isabel Macdonald and Mrs. Atherton-Earp, was in great request, as also "The Coming of Baby" (Lucy Ashby and K. Atherton-Earp). On the British Literature stall, the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING was well in evidence, both bound copies and the current issue being on view, as well as specimens of the Journals of Leagues and Societies affiliated to the International Council of Nurses, through the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland. We were sorry not to see more publications by nurses, and at another Congress we shall know how such exhibits will be welcomed, so bear in mind, "budding authors," the year 1929, and send two copies to Miss Nina Gage, in China.

In the section devoted to Finland, garments used in all the Hospitals were shown, similar to those used in this country except that the pyjama suit was more generally used for the convalescent male patient, an idea which commends itself to us strongly. The photographs and statistics were excellently displayed on screens—tables were used to show the work done by crippled children here, as everywhere, wonderfully good, and well up to the standard of excellence in other countries. The modelling was the best we have ever seen, two subjects in particular, a rabbit and an elephant, being beautiful work, and both produced by one-armed children.

The Nursing Uniforms on Models were excellently tailored, especially notable were those of the Finnish Nurses.

A large model of a Canadian Nurse in uniform occupied the central position in the Canadian Exhibit, but we must give the palm to the Finns and Swedes for smartness and utility of uniform, their graceful figures enhancing the general effect and perfection of detail. The Finns were navy-blue, with summer hats of fine straw and pleated veils. The Swedes grey dresses with navy hats and veils.

The pamphlet on "Advice to Expectant Mothers," was one of the best we have ever read (Victorian Order of Nurses, Canada) Jackson Building, Ottawa. Exercise, rest, fresh air, clothing, care of breasts and other advice. Short, concise and direct, just what is required at all our Welfare Centres.

Next we came to the little Blue Books issued by the Department of Public Health, Ottawa; How to Care for Mother, Baby, Children; How to Avoid Accidents and give First Aid; "Beginning a Home in Canada," and "Canadians need Milk," were those which forced themselves upon our notice in the short time at our disposal. The Hope Chest for the Bride in the Home booklet is a very nice idea, more euphonious than the "Bottom Drawer."

Most interesting was the Electric Machine for cutting dressings adopted by Miss Fairley of Toronto. A tremendous saving in time, material, sharpening of scissors and knives, and also in sore fingers, and costing a mere trifle to run per hour—2½d. was the figure quoted.

New Zealand was well to the fore, Sir Frederick Truby King's publications and preparations well in evidence and well displayed, "Mothers Stop, Look, and Listen," containing much good advice. "Bicky-pegs" were interesting to all comers (so interesting that the whole packet disappeared) an idea of Dr. Hector Cameron's and obtainable in the Gray's Inn Road, London, hard-baked brown bread in the shape of a small peg to assist the teeth during teething, but not to be given as a "comforter" indefinitely, but a quarter of an hour only at each time.

Maternal mortality is an international subject, lamentable loss of life and energy can be prevented by better midwifery, we have failed to reduce the death rate, so there remains much work to be done. "Forward" must be our watchword.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF NURSES.

THE MUSICAL SERVICE IN THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS.

The first item on the Congress Programme convened to meet in Helsingfors on July 20th was the Musical Service in the Church of St. Nicholas, which took place on that day. This fine church is approached from all sides by a number of steps, on which it is raised well above the city, and the interior is dignified and handsome. The form of religion in Finland is Lutheran, with which is associated a considerable amount of ceremonial. Over the Altar was a picture of the Crucifixion, upon it a cross, flowers, candles, crimson frontal and fair linen, and on either side, pedestals on which were adoring golden angels.

The white and gold altar rails were semi-circular in form, with crimson cushions and kneelers.

The crimson chasubles worn by the Bishop and the Cantor at the Altar were of handsome brocade embroidered with gold.

The celebrated Finnish Composer, Jean Sibelius, honoured the International Congress of Nurses by giving a first performance of his new composition, "The Lord is my Shepherd," a courtesy which was both deeply appreciated and enjoyed. The Choir of Finnish nurses, and the Choir, "Suomen Laulu" gave beautiful renderings of the choruses and the vocal solo, "My Kantäle will sound more beautiful in Heaven," by Miss Greta Aaltonen, was exquisitely sung.

Suomen Laulu is a voluntary choir Association first founded by Professor Heikki Klemetti (who conducted it), as a male choir in 1900, and later transformed into a mixed choir. The Association maintains a School of Singing, and collects donations for the purpose from all over the country. It also receives a small annual grant from the Government in return for which the choir sings on festival occasions at the Government's request.

The Address at this service was given in English, in a voice easily heard all over the Church, by the Bishop, the Rev. Jaakko Gummerus, who took as his text 1 Corinthians XIII, 3-8, and emphasised that Love is of God also that it is not the peace of calm resignation, but the peace of God which is good. He said further, that not every profession can be sanctified as a vocation, but the calling of a nurse stands on that level, and that when a nurse devotes herself to the service of divine humanity, this work cannot be done with hard calculation.

After the service the Baroness Mannerheim presented the Hon. Treasurer, Miss M. Breay, to the Bishop, to whom he said:—

"I wish you good success—always." Miss Breay interprets this as a benediction not for herself only, but for the International Council of Nurses as a whole, and as such passes it on.

THE DINNER AT THE HOTEL SOCIETETSHUSET.

The first Social Function of the Congress was the Dinner by invitation of the Nurses' Association of Finland, to which were bidden the Hon. Officers, Presidents and Official Delegates, and distinguished guests, in all 180. The handsome dining hall of the Hotel Societetshuset was admirably suited to the occasion, the tables were decorated with a profusion of red and white roses, sweet peas, and violets—a feast for the eye. Excellent music was provided by the band which plays nightly at the hotel.

Baroness Mannerheim, as President of the Nurses' Association of Finland, presided. On her right hand was Miss H. L. Pearse, representing Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Founder of the Council, and President of the National

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)