

Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland. On her left Dr. Leo Ehrnrooth, Chairman of the Town Council of Helsingfors. Amongst others at the High Table were Mrs. Strong, President of the Scottish Nurses' Association, Miss M. Breay, Hon. Treasurer of the International Council of Nurses, Dr. Lavonius, representing the Medical Board of Finland, and Mrs. Lavonius.

In welcoming those present, Baroness Mannerheim said :—

DEAR GUESTS,—As Chairwoman of Finland's Association of Nurses, I have the privilege of bidding you welcome to this family gathering. May the spirit of sympathy and love, which forms the soul of meetings such as this, not only result in decisions which are of vital importance for the future development of our beloved tasks, but also develop the international friendship, which, built up upon common interests and desires, is the most valuable in the whole world.

Many of you we know already, if not personally at least by renown. We hope that hereafter we may call you our personal friends and that you will recall our land and our meeting with warmth and friendliness, and that you will tomorrow, and ever in the future, regard your neighbours at this dinner as your sisters.

Miss Pearse, who responded, said :—

FELLOW NURSES,—I stand here as the representative of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, who is unfortunately kept at home by her devotion to duty, as she is the principal witness in support of the rights of Registered Nurses, before a Select Committee of our House of Commons now taking evidence concerning the rights of probationers to be trained on a Compulsory Syllabus of Training, and of Registered Nurses to a free and open election of Direct Representatives to our Governing Body, but I am sure she is with us in spirit.

As is usual with the International Council of Nurses, we are being received with the most delightful hospitality, in the name of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland I desire to convey to Baroness Mannerheim and the Nurses' Association of Finland our thanks for our reception at this charming dinner.

Honorary Membership of the Nurses' Association of Finland.

A most interesting ceremony then took place when Baroness Mannerheim rose and said :—I must for a moment call for your attention in order to address a few words to you on behalf of our Association. When Miss Reimann arrived here and saw the preparations we had made, she remarked to me that we perhaps had "done a little too much," but even if you regard these preparations in the spirit in which they were made—an expression of our pleasure—they do not by a long way bring home to you the pleasure, honour and deep feeling the daughters of our lately freed land feel in being able to welcome you, sisters from the whole world, to our beloved native country up here in the North. If flowers and decorations are insufficient, in what high degree do words fall short. They can express but so little of the pleasure and enthusiasm, which now quivers in our hearts in being able to see at this table so many of the leaders of the nursing world. We have for months striven to discover some new ways of expressing what we feel, and our Association hopes that by the presentation of Honorary Membership to several of the distinguished women, who are present here, and to many, who, unfortunately, have been prevented from being together with us, we shall better than by words, let you understand that we, by giving the best we can give, thank you for all that you have done for our beloved cause. We have first the honour of presenting Honorary Membership in the Nurses' Association of Finland in the form of this Emblem to our Honorary President, Founder of the

International Council of Nurses, Mrs. Ethel Gordon Fenwick. We regret that owing to important matters at home, she has been prevented from coming here, but we hope that she will do us the honour of accepting our little Association Badge, and I request that her representative, Miss Pearse, will bear to her this mark of our esteem and admiration for one of the greatest pioneers and untiring workers for the Nursing cause. This work has not always been easy and the Nurses of to-day should eternally honour the women, who during the infant years of the Nursing cause bore the brunt of the fight. Three of these notable women are among us to-day, the one is our Honorary President (Sister Agnes Karll), the two others are Foundation Members of the International Council of Nurses. We hope that Sister Agnes Karll, Miss Huxley and Miss Maxwell will accept the brooch, which denotes Honorary Membership in our Association.

We had hoped that Miss Snively from Canada, who is also a Foundation Member of the Council, would be here, but she was prevented from coming and will accept our Badge and greetings through Miss Jean Browne, President of her Association, who, I feel sure, will convey them to her.

We also wish to present Honorary Membership to three of America's best daughters, two of them are present this evening, while the third has been prevented from coming. I hope that neither Miss Noyes nor Miss Goodrich nor Miss Nutting will refuse to accept and wear our little brooch. Miss Stewart will, doubtless, convey our Badge and greetings to her friend, whose absence we all deeply regret.

One of these small tokens we will reserve for France—for one of the pioneers of the Nurses' cause, Dr. Anna Hamilton, to whom we hope that Mlle. Chaptal will convey it. One other we will present to our last Honorary President, Mrs. Tscherning, who during the Great War was President of the International Council of Nurses. Unfortunately, owing to illness, she has been prevented from coming to Helsingfors. I am convinced that we all regret her absence, which does not permit of our pinning the brooch on her dress. We must request Miss Munck to be so kind as to take this badge to Mrs. Tscherning.

Our Association extends a hearty welcome to its new Honorary Members, and hopes that the example they set us will spur us all on to give of our best in the work for the Nurses' cause. I ask all present to greet the new Honorary Members—those who are with us, as well as those who are absent—with a Finnish "Eläköön," a Swedish "Hurra"! These were heartily given.

Honorary Membership of the Association was also conferred upon Miss Verwey Mejan, late President of Nosokomos, Holland.

Dr. Leo Ehrnrooth, Chairman of the Town Council of Finland, then rose and on behalf of all the guests present, thanked Baroness Mannerheim for giving them the opportunity of meeting at dinner before the proceedings of the Congress began. It had, he said, been a most delightful and enjoyable party. He concluded by giving the toast of the health of Baroness Mannerheim, which was most cordially received.

Miss Anna Maxwell, and Sister Agnes Karll, expressed warm thanks for the Badge, and Mrs. Strong, as the oldest nurse present, spoke of the honour she felt it to have been among the pupils of the Nightingale School. Baroness Mannerheim (who also trained at St. Thomas' Hospital, London), would, she said, appreciate her meaning. She also spoke of what it meant to her to see the present gathering. She had seen nursing in its infancy, now it had become a profession, and there were present that evening the Head of the City, and the Head of the Medical Profession in Finland. Nursing was an honoured profession, but that position had only been attained for it by an immense amount of self-sacrifice on the part of individual members.

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