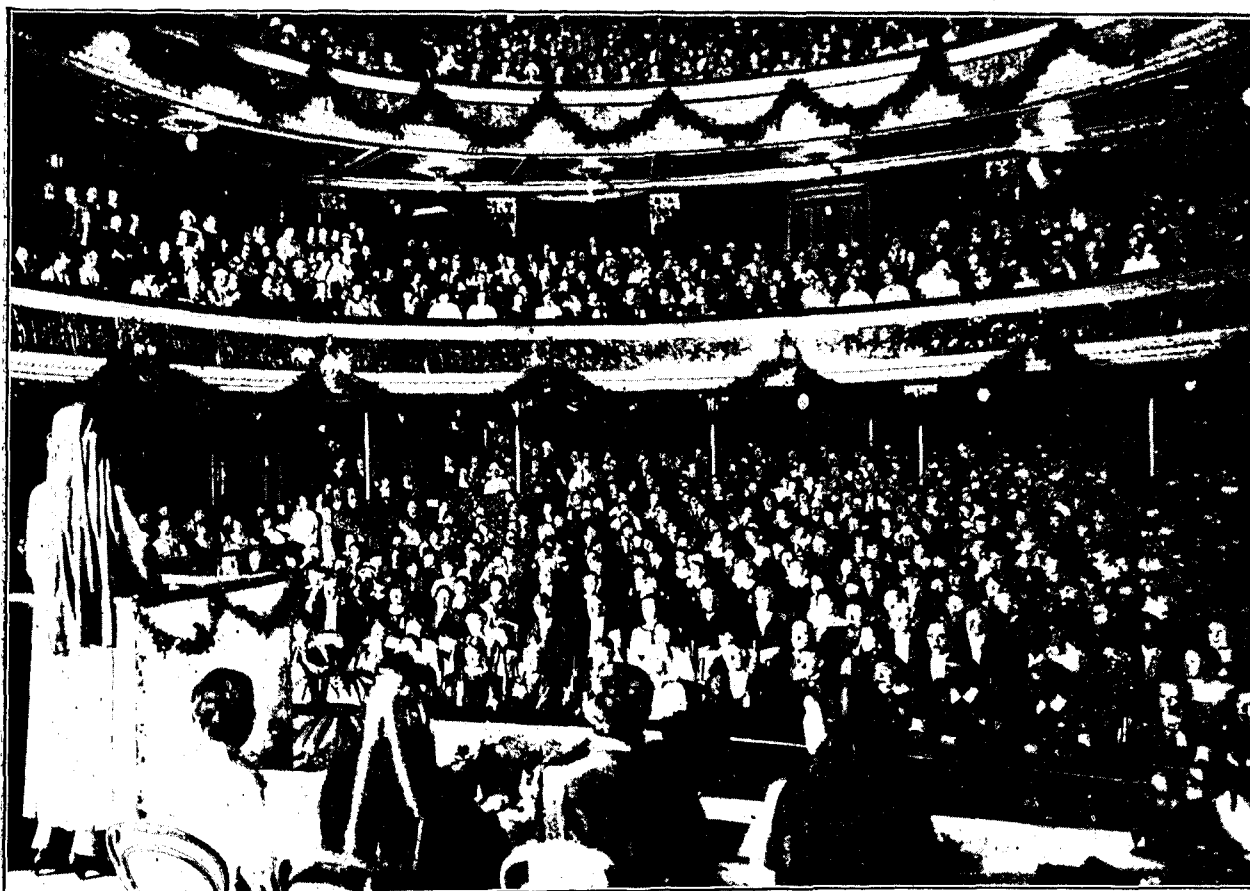


## THE OPENING SESSION.

The Opening Session of the Congress took place in the National Theatre, Helsingfors, on the evening of Monday, July 20th, and when Baroness Mannerheim, who was greeted with rounds of applause, rose to call on Dr. Leo Ehrnrooth, Chairman of the Town Council, to give the Address of Welcome, the scene was beautiful and impressive. On the platform, decorated with lovely flowers, and surrounded by a frame on which were illuminated the flags of many nations, were seated the Hon. Officers, Presidents of National Councils, Official Delegates, and the speakers, and behind them again was a long flower-decked table, covered with a white cloth, at which, facing

great day. The World War, the destructive work of which stretched itself to so many prized spiritual possessions, also affected the International Council of Nurses, which the Nurses of different countries had created and developed. The task of this Congress is to pour new Life into the moulds, which have already been formed for the organised co-operation of the Nurses, and thereby to efface from this particular field the traces of the war's havoc, and re-establish the normal relations which existed before the war. The Congress in Helsingfors marks thus a new starting-point for the International Council of Nurses, and it is a pleasurable fact for the habitants of this city that such an important step on the road shall be connected with the name of the City of Helsingfors. It is in the nature of the matter that this notable event should



THE OPENING SESSION OF THE CONGRESS IN THE NATIONAL THEATRE (BARONESS MANNERHEIM PRESIDING).

the audience, were placed a very decorative row of distinguished members of Congress.

The great theatre, with its tier upon tier of galleries, was crowded to the roof with an eager and expectant audience.

### The Address of Welcome.

DR. LEO EHRRNROOTH, Chairman of the Town Council of Helsingfors, spoke as follows:—

On behalf of the City of Helsingfors, I beg to bid the participants in the International Congress of Nurses a hearty welcome to Finland's capital.

This day, when Nurses from all countries of the world have come together here in Helsingfors, in order, after almost a decenary of enforced interruption, to retie the knot between them, can in truth be described as a

draw the world's attention to the International Nurses' movement, and the worthy tasks, which it has made its goal. In quite a special degree does this concern the City and Country where the Congress takes place, and there is no doubt but that the illustrious visit of Nurses from many countries will, here at home, incite, spur on, and spread to further circles, the interest in the Nursing movement. It is with frank satisfaction that I may take this opportunity of expressing before these representatives of the Nurses of the world, the esteem and admiration that every one must feel for the devotion and self-sacrificing labour that they and their fellow-workers have bestowed, and are bestowing, upon suffering mankind—a labour, which especially during the hard years of the War, made almost superhuman demands upon their health and strength.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)