

I beg to express the hope that the numerous foreign participants at this Congress will not regret the long journey to this out-of-the-way land, and that their sojourn in this City and Country, will be a warming summer remembrance with its breezes from the blue sea and the sighing of the pines in the Northern woods. It will certainly not be without interest for you to see how Finland's people, under adverse conditions, but always aware of their goal, are striving in the different departments of social activity, to secure their newly-won position as a politically independent member of the sphere of the free nations.

What worth there is to be found here in the results and efforts in your particular field of work, you are best able to judge for yourselves, but I may be permitted to point out that in case you have found that in the matter of nursing, and Nurse training, Finland is not behind other and larger countries, it must in justice be said that this is due very largely to a person of strength and initiative from your own circles, your President, Baroness Sophie Mannerheim. I am glad that on this long-due occasion, we can give expression to our esteem and gratitude for such a beautiful and important womanly action.

On behalf of the City of Helsingfors, I wish your Congress all success in the work before you. It would be a pleasure to me if the greeting of welcome I have had the honour to address to you could be in words which would find their way from heart to heart and convince you all of the warmth and sympathy with which this country welcomes the Nurses of the world who have met to hold their Congress in Finland's Capital.

#### The Response.

Baroness Mannerheim, in reply, spoke as follows:—Dr. Ehrnrooth, Friends! In the name of the International Council of Nurses and its numerous representatives from many countries present here, I extend to you, Dr. Ehrnrooth, and through you to the Municipal Council of Helsingfors and the people of the town, thanks for the kind words and pregnant thoughts that you have expressed. The Band of Nurses stretching over the whole world has permitted us to experience the great pleasure of being able to meet in this country, where the light summer nights reign, to exchange thoughts on common interests and tasks. Our task is of a definite nature. This International Congress of Nurses is the first big Congress since the outbreak of the War. The one prior was in Cologne in 1912, and the meeting in Copenhagen in 1922 was chiefly to discuss questions of a business nature. The Great War and the years that followed have given rise to problems, which are greater than we could have dreamed of before, and with which we nurses, in common with all other working people, have to occupy ourselves. Among all these problems is that which concerns the caring for the sick of the nations, and for the universal health—a most important problem and one which is most closely connected with our work. This will, in future, greatly extend our activities and give us a still further aim in our work for humanity.

#### Letter from H.R.H. Princess Arthur of Connaught, S.R.N., President of the Royal British Nurses Association.

At the close of her address, Baroness Mannerheim stated that she had, that afternoon, received a letter from a State Registered Nurse in England—the Princess Arthur of Connaught, S.R.N.—which she read to the Congress. The Princess desired that her very best wishes for a successful Congress should be conveyed to all the members present, and expressed the view that such an International Congress of Nurses must give a great impulse towards the higher development of the profession. Her Royal Highness said that she would look forward with very great interest to reading the reports of all that took place.

#### Welcome from the Medical Board of Finland.

Dr. Lavonius, Representative of the Medical Board of Finland, said:—The President, Ladies, Participants in the Congress of Nurses.

In the name of the Medical Board of Finland, I have the honour of bidding you all welcome to our land. I may express my pleasure that it has been decided that this time the International Congress of Nurses should be held in Finland, now that our Country, as an independent Nation, has the possibility of arranging this. I also express my satisfaction that our Country sees as its Guests, Nurses from all parts of the world.

I hope that you will fare well here, in the land of a thousand lakes, and that you will take from here to your native country, knowledge of a land, upon which Nature has not lavished her gifts with open hands, but which, in spite of this, by doggedness and labour, has brought the stubborn soil to cultivation; of a people, who are striving, in all fields of human industry, to keep in line with more favourably situated countries; and also in the field of Nursing, striving to still further develop this latter in accordance with its disposition and own particular conditions.

The programme of the Congress contains many important and, just at present, vitally important questions, which are not only of moment to the Nursing World and its development, but also to the universal health and sick nursing. I am convinced that the work of the Congress, which I know is executed in the spirit of love, and the great Florence Nightingale, will not be fruitless. I bid you once more welcome to Finland, wishing your work good luck and success.

#### Greetings from the International Council of Women.

Mme. Jenny Markelin-Swenson, as the representative of Finland's National Council of Women, brought hearty greetings from the International Council of Women, and said that it was a great honour for Finland, and a real pleasure, particularly for its women, to receive the nurses of the whole world.

In all ways the work of the sisterhood of nursing was of far-reaching service in the public welfare, in regard to Infant Mortality, sanitary conditions, and the prevention of disease, on trained nurses depended largely whether Society went on in a satisfactory way, and she particularly wished to emphasise their high and difficult mission.

#### Greetings from the International Women Suffrage Alliance.

Miss Annie Furuhjelm, late Member of the Finnish Parliament, brought greetings from the International Women Suffrage Alliance, and its President, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, expressing its admiration and gratitude for the work of nurses. It was, she said, only natural that the Alliance should be in sympathy with an organisation on an International basis, of the members of a profession so grand and sacred as that of Nursing. She wished the International Council of Nurses great success in its work for humanity.

#### The Trained Nurse's Part in Peace.

The next speaker on the programme was Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, whose Address, "The Trained Nurse's part in Peace," was presented in her absence by Miss Helen Pearse. In introducing her to the Congress, Baroness Mannerheim said that they all knew that the Founder of the International Council of Nurses had hoped to do it the honour, and give it the joy of being with them, but she was kept in England by important professional duty.

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