

TWO INTERESTING INSTITUTIONS.

"THE LITTLE RED HOUSE,"

ONE OF THE REST HOMES FOR NURSES NEAR HELSINGFORS,
FINLAND.

During the last lap of our train journey from Abo to Helsingfors, a most refreshing picture of the pleasant prospect in store for all leapt to the mind by the sight of an invitation attached to the Registration card for Head-



A "GREY LADY."

quarters which, by an admirable system of organisation was handed to us on that train over an hour before we reached our destination. The sight of two Nurses, trimly turned out in their grey and blue regulation uniform, and their kindly greeting on entering the carriage, drove away all vestige of travel weariness. The invitation card, now a treasured possession, runs :—

You are cordially invited to visit
The Little Red House, Home for Infants,
and Bad Grankulla,

on Saturday, July 18th, at 2 p.m.

Of these the Little Red House, the Rest Home for Nurses, stands in my memory as a clear cut gem of artistic design.

A motor bus drove out a party of us who were particularly interested in matters relating to Public Health, and what could be more important than the maintenance of the health of State Registered Nurses? We drew up at the entrance of a pathway leading through pine woods to the characteristic "Finnish red" wooden house, a shade which is much deeper than our "brick red" as we call it—a tone of colour which grows more attractive with longer familiarity. We were met by our hostess in a charmingly shaped hall which led to a sitting-room for the Nurses, artistically built and comfortably furnished.

Bed-sitting rooms most accurately describe the accommodation on the first-floor, which was reached by mounting a white wooden curved stairway from the Hall. The bed covered with a delicate white lace counterpane worked on white net thrown over a coloured eiderdown gave a most restful effect with coloured net curtains at the windows through which on that Summer afternoon sweet scents

from the pinewoods wafted in. Over the large tea table, laden with "goodies" and handsome cakes, hung a lamp which caught the eye because of its charming design and large shade. With warrantable pride I was told the shade had been a gift from Baroness Sophie Mannerheim, so the beneficent influence of this great leader of the Nurses in Finland permeated this charming Rest Home. I am convinced this influence must often inspire a tired Nurse to feel it is well worth while to get her strength back to resume her life work.

Suddenly my eye was caught by a large frame illuminated with a poem in what appeared to be blank verse; being in Finnish I could get no further in interpreting its message, but imagine the pleasure it gave to see the name of Rabindranath Tagore at the end. We could not interpret the quotation to each other only the spirit of that great Indian poet seemed to make the unity of our ideals deeply precious. If any one of the many clever Nurses we met later during our stay in Helsingfors who spoke and read English as easily as her mother tongue, should chance to read these words I hope she will send a letter to the JOURNAL telling us what that quotation means and from which of Tagore's works it is taken.

G. LE GEYT.

THE SURGICAL HOSPITAL, HELSINGFORS.

The Surgical Hospital at Helsingfors presents truly ideal conditions for the nursing of the sick, and no enthusiastic nurse could fail to appreciate its pleasant spacious wards and all the many contrivances which have been established to add to the efficiency of its equipment. It must be a joy indeed to work there; everywhere there is the impression of space, brightness and light. In the long corridors leading



MISS ISABEL MACDONALD IN HOLIDAY MOOD.

to the wards are scarlet geraniums in full bloom which contrast beautifully with the prevailing colours of green and white. We hope to do justice in a future issue to this charming Hospital of which, as our readers know, the Baroness Mannerheim has been matron for many years.

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