

Republic, and all classes of her people, showed their unity towards her, and to us, all because of her. She cares for the poor and needy ones because she follows the Light of Christ, so now she is shining in the world because of her love and sympathy. I deeply appreciate.

Active in life, the people of the whole city of Helsingfors are working for the Congress. There were so many meetings going on in different places, and they prepared for these, and for special meetings.

The members of the Executive Committee always got there, though it might be very late in the night, and they said they never got to sleep till 3.30 a.m.

They were waited on at any time, and their call answered for the necessary coffee to wake them up and stimulate them in the best way, and make every one companionable and cheerful, so that they always had their smiling faces, and rosy cheeks. I shall never forget it.

This is the first Congress for me; first visit to Finland for me. It is a great joy to me. Oh, I am the debtor.

LILLIAN WU,

Official Delegate, Nurses' Association of China.

The Problems of Our Sisters in Other Lands.

Americans are supposed to be indefatigable conventioners and sightseers, but even the huskiest of them were rather breathless at the end of that warm, strenuous, exciting week in Helsingfors. Had any of us been asked then for our impressions, we should have gasped in despair, but now that the confused medley of new sensations and ideas and emotions have simmered down a little, a few outstanding impressions begin to emerge. Of these the few scattered bits of information which we have jotted down in our notebooks, are not by any means the most important. Unfortunately the saturation point for facts is soon reached with most of us, and we are obliged to comfort ourselves with assurances that we shall make up for our many lapses by a careful study of the published report. It is the people themselves who impress us most, not only the vivid personalities who come before us on the platform, but our fellow delegates and the nurses we meet casually in halls and conference rooms. It is amazing how quickly the barriers of race and language give way before the mounting consciousness of common interests and purposes, still more of common troubles and perplexities.

There are other differences quite as serious as those of race and language—long gaps between the older and the younger generations of nurses, between the countries with stable and perhaps too firmly established systems of education and professional organisations, and those who are just beginning to take their first hesitating steps along the same way, differences also of social status, of religion and perhaps most difficult of all, lingering memories of the war with all the bitterness not yet gone. But in spite of little undercurrents of friction and strain, there is no question at all that the dominant feeling was one of unity and co-operation. There were always generous hands to reach across the gaps and to call across a message of fraternity and goodwill, as when Mrs. Strong hailed the younger generation from her vantage ground of 82 years, and thrilled us all with her vigorous and forward-looking message. There is no doubt that the changes she foretells are coming, indeed, they are already here. The I.C.N. has started on a new stage of development. What lies ahead, none of us can tell. But the Helsingfors meeting revealed a great source of human energy ready to be used and almost unlimited possibilities of international co-operation. It remains for us all to see how we can build on the foundations which have already been laid, and how we can best combine our forces for the great work that still waits us. ISABEL M. STEWART.

Professor of Nursing and Health,

Teachers College, Columbia University, U.S.A.

SELECT COMMITTEE OF HOUSE OF COMMONS ON RULES OF THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL.

The Proceedings of the Select Committee to inquire into the Rules of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales are of such far-reaching importance to the Nursing Profession and the public that we are unable in this issue to do full justice to them, owing to the eager interest of our readers in the Meeting of the International Council of Nurses and Nursing Congress at Helsingfors to which we devote all the space available. When the Committee's Report has been issued we intend to deal with the evidence and result in detail. Later the Blue Book containing a verbatim Report will be issued, copies of which should be secured by all Nurses' Organisations. In the meanwhile we, as principal witness (1) for the right of nurses to a Scheme of Prescribed Training being incorporated in the Rules as a condition of admission to the Register, and (2) for a Scheme of free nomination of candidates, and free election by the Registered Nurses of their 16 direct representatives on their Governing Body, the General Nursing Council, have to thank the Editor of the *Poor Law Officers Journal* for the comprehensive reports of the proceedings of the Committee in the issues of July 24th and 31st, and August 7th, and advise those interested in our evidence to procure a copy of the latter date. Address, 27, Furnival Street, London, E.C.4, and send 2½d. for paper and postage.

Two Points of Principle.

The Select Committee of the House of Commons appointed to inquire into the Rules of the General Nursing Council with regard to (1) Prescribed Training for Nurses, and (2) The Reservation of Seats for Matrons on the General Nursing Council, opened its enquiry at the House of Commons on Wednesday, July 22nd, in Committee Room, 15, the Right Honble. H. A. L. Fisher (Chairman) presided, and there were present Major Sir Richard Barnett, Sir George Berry, Mr. Rhys Davies, Lieut.-Col. Fremantle, Sir Charles Forestier-Walker, Mr. Gerald Hurst, K.C., Major-General Sir Richard Luce, Colonel T. Sinclair, Miss Wilkinson, and Mr. Robert Wilson, four of whom are Medical Practitioners. The Clerk to the Committee is Captain Diver.

The two points of principle on which the witnesses gave evidence, for and against, were:—

I.—The Right to Compulsory Training for Nurses.

Did the Nurses Registration Act require Clause 3 (1) The Council shall make Rules for the following purposes:— Clause 3, (2) (a) and (b) (a) requiring as a condition of admission of any person to the Register that that person shall have undergone the prescribed training, and shall possess the prescribed experience, in the nursing of the sick, and (b) requiring that the prescribed training shall be carried out in an institution approved by the Council, which demands a compulsory Syllabus approved by the Council, signed by the Minister of Health as a Rule—and approved by Parliament—or, can the Council and the Minister of Health agree that no such Rule is necessary—and issue an advisory Syllabus of Training—making "training" permissive by the Training Schools—although the Syllabus of Examination is compulsory—and thus ignore the instruction "to make Rules"?

II.—The Reservation of Seats for Matrons, and Classes of General Nurses.

Was it advisable that Registered Nurses should have the right, under the Rules, to free nomination of their direct representatives on the General Nursing Council, or should seats thereon be reserved for privileged persons, Matrons and other classes of general Nurses?

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)