

RECEPTION AT BRITISH LEGATION.

On Tuesday, July 21st, Mrs. Rennie, wife of the British Minister at Helsingfors, held a reception for the British Members of the Congress at the Legation. Nearly all the British nurses were there, and many others as well. Mrs. Rennie received us in her beautiful lounge hall, and we were then taken to a Reception Room, where most delicious refreshments were served. English and Russian tea, coffee, every kind of cake and sandwich, bread of the country, strawberries with delightful ice cream, and all manner of iced drinks. After satisfying the inner man, or rather woman, Mrs. Rennie invited us to go upstairs to her drawing rooms. It would require an abler pen than mine to describe the beauty of these rooms, with their soft, rich carpets, lovely furniture and pictures, &c. Suffice it to say that we all spent a delightful afternoon chatting with old friends and making new ones. I feel sure we did not thank our charming Hostess half enough for giving us (the British Nurses) an opportunity of seeing her beautiful Finnish home, and for entertaining us so kindly during our sojourn in a foreign land.

Receptions were also held by wives of Ministers of other nationalities for Congress members.

AN AFTERNOON VISIT TO A REAL FINNISH HOME.

At the Reception given at the British Legation, Mrs. Rennie introduced some of us to Madame Arti, wife of the Minister for Finnish Home Affairs. Mme. Arti very kindly invited us to tea on the following Sunday to see a real Finnish Home.

Her home is on Brando, one of the many islands that make the great beauty of Helsingfors. During the summer months it is reached either by boat or by tram, as it is connected to the mainland by a bridge. It is a fashionable resort on Sundays, numbers of the people go there for their evening meal (there is a very good restaurant), also to visit the Casino which is on that island. Boats and trams run to a very late or rather early hour! In winter the whole Baltic round about is frozen, and one can skate up to Helsingfors.

Mme. Arti came to the pier to welcome us, dressed in her National Costume, an Honour which we greatly appreciated. It is such a pretty dress, a skirt of different coloured stripes, specially woven for these national costumes, a red silk apron, a white lawn blouse with full sleeves, a black velvet "corsage" and a sweet little red silk cap, the same colour as the apron. The *total ensemble* was charming. Monsieur Arti was waiting at the house, which is right on the edge of the water, and has a most beautiful garden—a mass of flowers in full bloom. It is such a quaint house, with odd little nooks and passages, all so lovely and comfortable. M. Arti had built outside, near the water's edge, a Finnish bathroom, which contains a large boiler filled with stones; underneath a fire is lighted, and when the stones get red hot, water is thrown in and creates the steam for the bath. Bundles of twigs were lying ready for the bather to slap himself all over, then a cold douche, and a swim in the Baltic to finish up with. The Finns are great bathers and swimmers, and this bath is taken every day during the summer.

After seeing all the beauties of the house and garden, we were entertained on the verandah to a much appreciated tea, with strawberries freshly picked from their own garden. We enjoyed our afternoon tremendously, Monsieur and Madame were so kind and friendly, and both spoke English so well, we hardly felt we were in a foreign household.

We shall always look back, with great pleasure, on our afternoon spent in a real Finnish Home.

A. CARSON RAE.

THE SURGICAL HOSPITAL, HELSINGFORS.

In our last issue we had space for only a short reference to the Surgical Hospital at Helsingfors, an excellently planned and well appointed institution.

We had opportunity for experiencing the hospitality of the hospital when Baroness Mannerheim and the Medical Staff of the Hospital entertained at lunch a large number of Members of the Congress; we never enjoyed a more delightful luncheon nor one more expeditiously served. The tables were beautifully decorated and, although crowded, the dining room was airy and light, owing to its enormous window space in comparison with its cubic space. The Medical Staff joined us at lunch, and the Chief Surgeon of the hospital spoke a few words of welcome to the guests and expressed the pleasure which it gave to the Hospital Authorities to offer the hospitality of the hospital to the Members of the Congress. Miss Musson replied on behalf of the guests. After that we set out on the tour of the hospital. Each guest had been presented with a little knot of red, blue or green ribbon and, when we rose from luncheon, three of the "grey ladies," each with a flag of a corresponding colour to the knots of ribbon, mustered at the entrance to the dining room; thus, without confusion,



A SUN BATH ON THE BALCONY.

each of the guests following the banneret of the colour of her knot, we were guided in parties over the hospital.

In one of the fine corridors the Baroness Mannerheim, who is Matron of the Hospital, drew our attention to a delightful little aquarium, among a wealth of flowers, with the remark that the Sister of the ward was as successful with her flowers as she was with her cases. Well, all we could say was that these patients were indeed fortunate for, although they grew in an open corridor, some of the plants that blossomed and climbed up the walls looked as though they lived in a well equipped conservatory.

The wards themselves fully justify the expectations raised by the appearance of the hospital, by the beauty of its balconies and corridors. There is plenty of space and a general, yet unobtrusive sense of colours most harmoniously blended. Here and there are pieces of the needlework for which the northern countries of Europe are famed, and the whole air of the hospital gives the idea that much care and thought is given to the minutest detail of its arrangement. We liked the nice washable screens and all the many little contrivances that bore witness to an exacting cleanliness. The theatres are beautifully up-to-date, and the out-patient departments models of efficiency and convenience. The Sisters' bed-sitting rooms (each a delightful little apart-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)