

THE GARDEN PARTY ON THE ISLAND FÖLISÖN.

Three short weeks have been crowded with pleasant incidents, to those who attended the Congress of the International Council of Nurses. The store house of the mind must be full to overflowing of memories—novel, happy and enriching. It is only when one sits quietly down, and thinks it all out, living it again, that one can thoroughly appreciate all that went to make our never-to-be-forgotten visit to Scandinavia so pleasant. To wit, the labour, energy, organisation, the beautiful kindness and courtesy, the natural and unceremonious friendliness. In a word, the spirit that animated our sisters in their generous provision for our enjoyment, was that which the good Bishop Jaakko Gummerus so strongly emphasised in his beautiful sermon to us in the Church of St. Nicholas—the spirit of Love, as taught by the Divine Master through His great Apostle (I Cor. xiii). One of the social functions which my memory specially treasures, was the Garden Party on the island of Fölisön, by the kind invitation of the Municipality of Helsingfors. Unfortunately we were not able to enjoy the personal greeting of the Mayor, owing to his sudden death two days previously. After visiting an orphanage of happy looking babies, and a charming School of Nursing, which no doubt will be described elsewhere, we were taken in automobiles to Fölisön, a most beautiful island north-west of Helsingfors. It is a natural park of very fine firs besides other trees. The chief attraction is the Friluftsmuseum—the open-air ethnographical museum. This is on a large scale. From various parts of Finland, wooden huts from olden times have been brought and set up, and completely furnished, according to the simple life and customs of the Finnish peasantry of that period (2 or 3 centuries ago). A "cottage" would consist of a small group of wooden shanties, *i.e.*, the living house, the bathhouse, food and clothes store and house, smoke house, &c. Of special interest is the old Country Church from Karuna, one of the first Churches built in Finland. All these huts have been taken to pieces, brought by rail from the country places where they originally stood, and rebuilt on the island. They are not imitations, they are the real thing. There, under cover, most carefully preserved, was the old "Church boat," oar-propelled, and capable of conveying one hundred persons to Church (reminiscent of the old Viking ships). In this connection, it will be of interest to my compatriots to learn that Christianity was first brought to Finland by a Scotchman—Bishop Henry of Upsala.

As we wandered over this beautiful island of such ethnographical interest, piloted by the smiling "Grey Ladies," after delicious and cooling refreshment, we emerged from the wood into an open space, where a most delightful surprise awaited us—not mentioned on the card of invitation.

The "Brage" had arranged a most generous programme of their own for our benefit. This is a Society for reviving and preserving Swedish National Culture in Finland. (It must be remembered that about 40 per cent of the population of Finland, are Swedes). Since the Brage Society was founded in 1906, it has rapidly increased, and now comprises 5 sections, namely:—(1) Ethnology, (2) Folk-music, (3) Folk-dances and games, (4) Popular acting, and (5) Country dresses. The founder and leader is Mr. Otto Andersson.

The Society works in harmonious co-operation with the Finnish people, and claims to be a "free union of Finland-Swedish investigators of National life." I greatly regret that the exigencies of time and space forbid me to describe in detail, the work of this most interesting and educative Society, suffice it to say, that it includes both musicians and poets. On a raised platform the members—in charming and diverse National costumes, of exquisite colouring—gave demonstrations of three of the Sections, namely 2, 3

and 5. They came on to the platform as an "Osthrobothnian Wedding Procession," which was the first item of the programme, followed by "Summer March," then a "Speech of Welcome," by one of the leaders, to the members of the I.C.N. in good, clear English, so kind and cordial. In rapid succession, we heard and saw "Wedding Tunes," "Wedding Dances," and after an interval, "Chorus Singing," "Folk Dances," and lastly, "Brage's own Song: Slumbering Tones," and so ended one of the most delightful entertainments I have ever enjoyed. The grey ladies told us we must move on to the landing stage, as boats were coming to convey us back to Helsingfors. After filling two boats, some were still left behind to wait for a third, but our disappointment was turned into joy! As the third boat finally left the shore, the whole body of Brage came to the water's edge, and seating themselves on the ground, this beautiful patch of human mosaic gave us more songs as a send-off, their lovely voices wafted across the water by the soft summer air, was—well—thrilling and uplifting, and I say to them, from my heart, *Tack sa mycket*. Thank you very much.

BEATRICE KENT.

DISTINGUISHED CONGRESS MEMBERS.

One of the pleasures of an International Congress of Nurses is meeting subsequently some of its members with whom, in a strenuous week, contact has been necessarily brief. Just recently we have met in London, Miss Lyyli Hagan, President of the National League of Trained Nurses of Finland, and Head of the Department of School Nursing in Helsingfors, who is just now studying the methods of School Nursing in this country, both in London, during which time she has been staying at the Club of the Royal British Nurses Association, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W., and in Birmingham.

Other distinguished Congress members now at the Club are Mrs. Shin Inouyi, Hon. Secretary of the Red Cross Society of Japan, an accomplished linguist, who speaks perfect English, and Miss Iku Toderiki, who presented the Report of Miss Take Hagiwara, Matron of the Red Cross Hospital, Tokyo, and Hon. Vice-President for Japan in the I.C.N., who, to the great regret of those who met her at the London and Cologne Congresses was unable to be present, but who sent a distinguished and charming substitute. Miss Toderiki was trained in the Red Cross Hospital, Tokyo, in connection with which she has remained for thirty years, and where she is at present Assistant Matron. She served for two years on a transport in the care of the sick and wounded in the Russo-Japanese War, a dangerous service, as these ships were often sunk, and often had to hide as best they might to avoid attack, she also worked for a year in hospitals at Vladivostock during the Great War, and was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for her War services.

Mrs. Inouyi and Miss Toderiki travelled to Helsingfors by way of Shanghai, (where they arrived one hour after the riots, and found all the nurses mobilised) Hong-Kong, Singapore, Colombo, and Suez, where they diverged to visit Egypt and the Pyramids, re-embarking at Port Said for Marseilles, from which port they made their way via Lyons, Berlin, and Stettin to Helsingfors.

Since the Congress they have visited the following cities, getting into touch, when possible, with the nurses' organisations: Stockholm, Hamburg, Berlin (where they visited the Red Cross Mother House), Prague, Vienna, Berne, Geneva, Paris, Bordeaux, Brussels, the Hague, Amsterdam, and now London. On their return journey they hope to visit New York, Philadelphia, Washington, and the Grand Canyon, and other places of interest in the United States of America.

Our readers will agree that they have made the very most of their opportunities.

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