

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

THE NURSES' ASSOCIATION OF FINLAND.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—We Finnish nurses have read with great pleasure the kindly and interesting report of the Helsingfors Congress which appeared in your journal. The report contains, however, one inaccuracy, and I therefore beg to be allowed to make the following correction and explanation in your columns.

The article called "The Exhibition" says: "A large model of a Canadian Nurse in uniform occupied the central position in the Canadian Exhibit, but we must give the palm to the Finns and Swedes for smartness and utility of uniform, their graceful figures enhancing the general effect and perfection of detail. The Finns were navy blue with summer hats of fine straw and pleated veils. The Swedes had grey dresses with navy hats and veils."

The grey uniform last mentioned is that adopted and used by "Sjuksköterskeföreningen i Finland—Suomen Sairaanhoidajatyhdistys" ("The Nurses' Association of Finland."). This Association was formed in 1898, and has been affiliated to the International Council of Nurses since 1909. It has always been a bilingual organization, and every trained nurse who is a Finnish subject is eligible for membership. All its members are Finns, whether their native language be Finnish or Swedish. Finland is their common Fatherland, and they have no wish to be called Swedes. The blue uniform which you describe is that of "Suomen Sairaanhoidajaliitto" ("The National League of Trained Nurses in Finland."), an organization formed this year by a number of nurses who left the old bilingual Association, in order to establish one which should be Finnish-speaking only. Each of these two organizations has now about the same membership. The bilingual one has arranged that its Executive Committee shall in future consist of an equal number of members from each linguistic group, in order that the interests of both groups may be equally represented. The following are at present members of this Executive Committee:—

CHAIRMAN.

Baroness S. Mannerheim, non-party.

FINNISH-SPEAKING MEMBERS.

Helmi Dahlström, Superintendent of Nurses, *Vice-chairman*; Karin Starck, Head Nurse, *Secretary*; Venny Snellman, Infant Welfare Inspector.

SWEDISH-SPEAKING MEMBERS.

O. Lackström, Superintendent of Nurses, *Secretary*; H. Nyqvist, Superintendent of Nurses; K. Neuman, Training Course Leader.

ALTERNATES.

L. Swan, Superintendent of Nurses; H. Forsman, Superintendent of Nurses; E. Aberg, Dispensary Nurse.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

ELLEN NYLANDER.

Stenbäcksgatan 7,
Helsingfors.

A GREAT GIFT.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In Helsingfors, through Miss Breay, you kindly asked for my impressions of the International Congress

of Nurses; answering your question, I will tell you that I am very glad and thankful to have been there and that the Congress will be a memory for life. A splendid work the Finnish Nurses had done! It was a great thing indeed to look at all the representatives from the whole world, to hear the good intentions and to feel the high spirit, which led the work day after day.

One also felt with the greatest joy and thankfulness the friendliness and sympathy with which all these representatives worked together and the good fellowship which these nurses, numbering over one thousand, showed one another. I think that the Founder of the I.C.N. (Mrs. Bedford Fenwick), has given her profession a great gift, and that the nurses always ought to remember her with esteem and the deepest gratitude.

The Swedish nurses were very glad that the Congress gave us an opportunity to see in our country so many foreign comrades, and we enjoyed very much the English delegates' visit in Stockholm. Perhaps I may through THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING send our most hearty greetings to every one of them. Lastly I will add as my opinion, that the Congress raised among the Swedish participators a wish to apply for membership in the International Council of Nurses.

Yours sincerely,

BERTHA WELLIN.

[This is good news. Sweden and Australia are the only countries having well organised nurses' associations now outside the International Council of Nurses.]

VOTING IN THE G.N.C. ELECTION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—For some time now there has been a lot heard about the election of Members for the G.N.C.

Can you inform me if State Registered Nurses working Overseas will be allowed to vote, and if so what arrangements have been made for them. In my case for instance a letter from England takes from 3 to 4 weeks to reach me, as I am doing private nursing and am continually on the move.

In other cases the time is sometimes longer. I for one would consider it a privilege to be allowed to vote, but it is quite obvious it could not be done in the usual time, and it is far too expensive to cable.

Yours faithfully,

H. TONG, S.R.N. 237

Mooiplaas,
Groenebloem, O.F.S.,
S. Africa.

[Voting Papers are sent out 21 days before the election, and must be returned within that time.—ED.]

CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD, SAORSTAT EIREANN, IRELAND.

The Seventeenth Examination of the Central Midwives' Board, Saorstát Eireann, was held in Dublin on October 14th and 15th, and in Cork on October 14th, 1925. Seventy-three candidates entered in Dublin and seventeen in Cork. Of the ninety candidates—one did not attend—twenty-one failed, and sixty-eight passed satisfactorily.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR DECEMBER.

Describe a case of acute nephritis; the causes, symptoms, and nursing care.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)