

NURSES' ORGANIZATIONS.

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

The Death of Baroness Sophie Mannerheim.

Throughout the National Associations of Nurses, affiliated to the International Council of Nurses, the death of Baroness Sophie Mannerheim, President of the International Council from 1922-1925, and afterwards Hon. President, which occurred after a long illness on January 9th, will cause profound sorrow.

Baroness Mannerheim was the President of the Nurses' Association of Finland from 1905 until recently, with increasing illness, she retired from the position. She was a member of one of the most prominent families in Finland, and received her professional training in the Nightingale School of St. Thomas' Hospital, London. In 1902 she was appointed Matron of the Surgical Hospital, Helsingfors, one of a group of clinics affiliated to the University of that city, a position which she held for the rest of her professional life.

The Baroness first came into touch with the International Council of Nurses at its Conference in Paris in 1907. On the first morning of the Conference there were many conjectures as to the personality of the stately and beautiful lady in nurse's uniform, wearing the Finnish national colours, a wonder resolved when she sent up her name, and went on to the platform to speak.

As President of the Nurses' Association of Finland—an Association of the very existence of which most of those present were unaware—she told the interested Conference of the Training School for Nurses at the Surgical Hospital, Helsingfors, in which Miss Florence Nightingale took a warm interest.

From that time onwards the Baroness threw herself with great earnestness into the International movement, and one of the first results of the Paris Conference was to stimulate the Finnish Nurses Association to found its own Journal, the name of *Epione* being adopted. *Epione*, it may be noted, was the wife of Æsculapius,

the God of Physic, and the mother of Hygeia, Goddess of Health, Iaso, Goddess of Recovery, and Panacea, the all-healing Goddess.

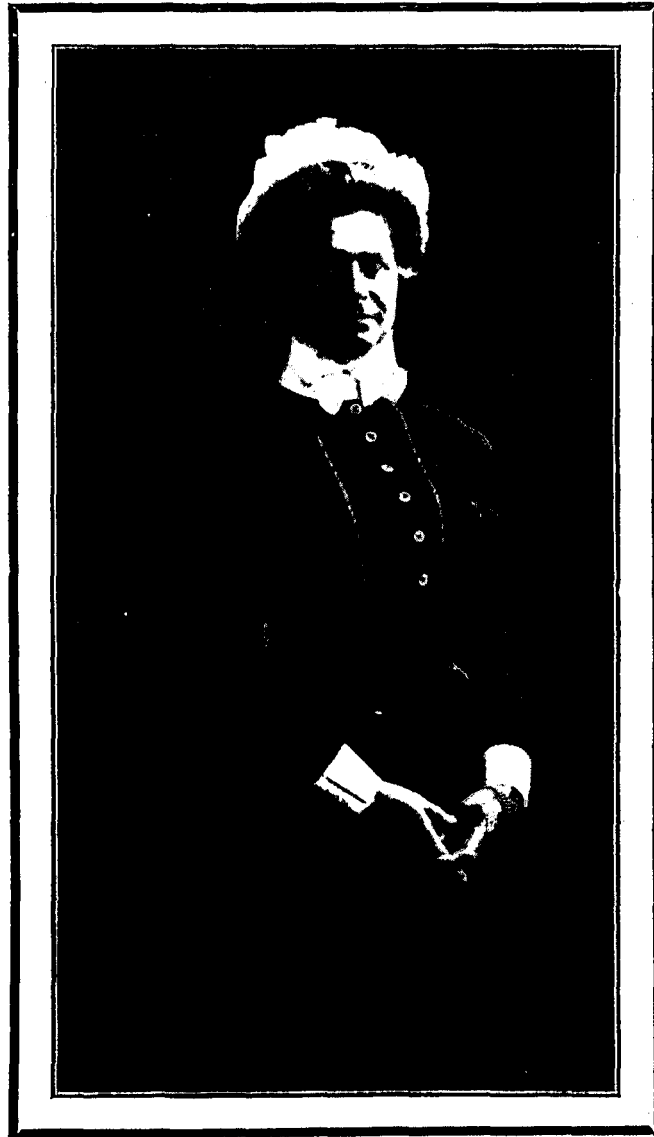
At the meeting of the International Council in London in 1909 the National Councils of Canada, Denmark, Finland and Holland were received into the Council, and bearing her part in that picturesque ceremony with characteristic dignity and charm Baroness Mannerheim, said: "I accept with great humility the honour of affiliation for Finland. We feel deeply our responsibility and will try to be worthy."

The following year Miss Nightingale died, and the Baroness cabled to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Hon. President, I.C.N., and President of the National Council of Nurses in this country: "Please accept expressions of deep sympathy in immense loss which not England only, but the whole nursing world has suffered by death of Miss Nightingale.—Association of Nurses of Finland, Mannerheim, President."

In 1912 the emancipation of Finland had not taken place, and for patriotic and political reasons Baroness Mannerheim felt unable to attend the Meeting and Congress of the International Council of Nurses in Cologne, where, indeed, Finnish Nurses were shadowed by Russian detectives, but she kept in close touch with the Council, and in 1920 attended the Meeting of the Executive in Atlanta, U.S.A., and in 1922, that of the Grand Council, in Copenhagen, when she took to the Council the invitation of the Nurses' Association of Finland to meet in Helsingfors in 1925, an invitation which was unanimously accepted.

the Baroness being elected President of the I.C.N. for the ensuing triennial period. How marvellously the Congress in Helsingfors was organised under her leadership is known throughout the Nursing World. At the conclusion of her term of office she was unanimously elected an Hon. President.

One after another outstanding pioneers of the International Council of Nurses have passed away. The nurses of the United States of America suffered grievous loss by the death through an accident of Isabel Hampton



BARONESS SOPHIE MANNERHEIM,

Beautiful and inspiring as we remember her at the International Nursing Congress in London in 1909.

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