

discharged patients so that, after being accustomed to cleanliness and hygienic conditions, they would not fall back into their state of neglect through having to put on their own ragged garments again. There was always something to be improved and something to be put right. Naturally all these things took time. It needed all Sophie Mannerheim's untiring energy and boundless zeal to bring her at last in triumph past every difficulty to the goal she sought; the reforms due solely to her exceptional organizing ability aroused the greatest general admiration.

When Sophie Mannerheim had been in office about four years, a medical congress was held in Helsingfors. The Matron of the Surgical Hospital was invited to one of the official dinners; a speech was made in her honour, one of our prominent doctors stating that, during the four years that Sophie Mannerheim had been at the hospital, it had progressed more than in the previous forty (naturally all the reforms mentioned above had not already been put into effect, but a great many of them had at least been begun). This was most encouraging to Sophie Mannerheim and stimulated her to more intensive labours, for she was not one of those who are content to rest on their laurels. Onwards and upwards, onwards to some thing greater, broader and better.

Sophie Mannerheim's sphere of activity continued to extend like the ever-broadening, ever-multiplying circles on the water where a stone has been cast. It was now not the Surgical Hospital alone, though it had always a special place in her heart, that took her time and energy. There was the students' home and school of nursing, the convalescent home and the holiday home for nurses, the so-called Red Hut, that she had instituted; and the nurses' journal "Epione" was published through her initiative. She had occasionally taken part in congresses in foreign countries, and as an indirect result the nurses' association became

a member of the International Council of Nurses and sent representatives to conferences in different parts of Europe and even to America. Sophie Mannerheim continued to take part in these meetings and her name became more and more known, and the force of her personality was increasingly felt. Out in the world she began to be regarded as a force to be reckoned with and an intelligence that could not be done without. Her advice was sought everywhere. Her correspondence covered the whole civilized world and of late years she travelled extensively in the interests of nursing, even visiting the Balkans and Greece. She was elected president of the International Council of Nurses for the three year period 1922-1925, and thus became the head of all the nurses' associations in the world; at the end of this period the International Council of Nurses met in Helsingfors and Sophie Mannerheim had achieved her end. Finland became

widely known when the thousand nurses went back to their respective countries full of admiration for Finnish culture and the beauty of a Finnish summer.

Sophie Mannerheim was passionately loyal to her country. She worked first and foremost for the good of humanity and secondly for the glory of Finland. She loved her country far beyond all thoughts of politics, she loved the very earth, the very people, and wanted her country to distinguish itself in every possible way. She, too, shared in the general enthusiasm for the war of freedom, she more than any other, for it was her own brother who led the White Army to victory, and the 16th May, 1918, was certainly the happiest day of her life. During the post-war years, when there was neither food nor money, she worked as one inspired. She bought a property which was called the Children's Castle and turned it into a home and

educational institute for children whom the war had left unprotected. She also collected funds for the old and infirm, for the countless numbers of "pauvres honteux" who would not stoop to beg, and were literally dying of starvation. It was most touching to see the perfect faith they had in her power to help and comfort. In their eyes nothing was impossible for her; they came to her in their misfortunes and sorrows, as to an all-powerful being, who could protect them from all the trials and troubles of this life. And when there were no more funds to give she helped by her gay courage and never-flagging interest. As the piper in "Cyrano de Bergerac" helped the starving soldiers to forget their sufferings by playing their national tunes, so was Sophie Mannerheim able to drive care from the hearts of the old and sad by the power of a friendly word.

Sophie Mannerheim had inherited a great love of art from her father. She did not practise any form of art herself and regarded her literary production, two volumes "From the World of a Nurse," as a mere pastime, though it was so successful. But she loved music

and painting, delighting in the company of musicians and artists. The pictures which were presented to her by some of our most famous artists are a token of the high esteem in which she was held. Her feeling for poetry and her memory were remarkable. Few have had a greater appreciation of tone and rhythm than she or so fine an ear for the style of different epochs. It seems unbelievable that anyone as busy as she should have been able to find time for so many outside interests. In bed, late at night or early in the morning were the only times when she could count upon being undisturbed; it was then that she used to write her articles for "Epione" and her contributions to nursing questions, some of which were published in newspapers and some sent to the various societies dealing with such questions.

Sophie Mannerheim did not spend her Sundays in resting but in visiting her numerous protégés, former hospital



BARONESS SOPHIE MANNERHEIM,
Late President of the International Council of Nurses.
(1922-1925.)

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