

there would be at least a thousand from the countries round the Baltic, without taking into consideration those further afield.

The meeting was an historic one, notable for the fact that in spite of the world-wide upheaval and the changed conditions resulting from the Great War, the unity of the International Council of Nurses remained unimpaired. Of the threefold bond of faith, hope, and love which has united it not one strand was broken: its membership remained intact, a number of National Councils were eager for election, and cordial invitations were received from several National Councils for the I.C.N. to hold its next meeting and Congress in their countries.

The election of President was deferred until these invitations had been considered, when, that brought by Baroness Mannerheim from the nurses of Finland having been accepted, the Baroness was elected President, and it was arranged that the next Congress should be held in Helsingfors in 1925.

At this meeting of the Grand Council the resignation by Miss Lavinia Dock of the position of Hon. Secretary, which she had held since the inception of the Council in 1899, was received with the deepest regret. Her unswerving loyalty to the interests of the Council, her genius for friendship, her brilliant literary ability, and her ceaseless assiduity had made her an ideal Secretary, for whose services the Council can never be sufficiently grateful. A framed Address, setting out its sense of its indebtedness, beautifully illuminated, and signed by the President on its behalf, was subsequently sent to Miss Dock, who expressed her pleasure and appreciation of the Council's action. The Address concluded:—

"For the example you have given to the nurses of all Nations by your altruism, your courage, your fearlessness in combating injustice, and for the sympathy, dignity and harmony with which you have conducted the business of the Council, we thank you gratefully and sincerely."

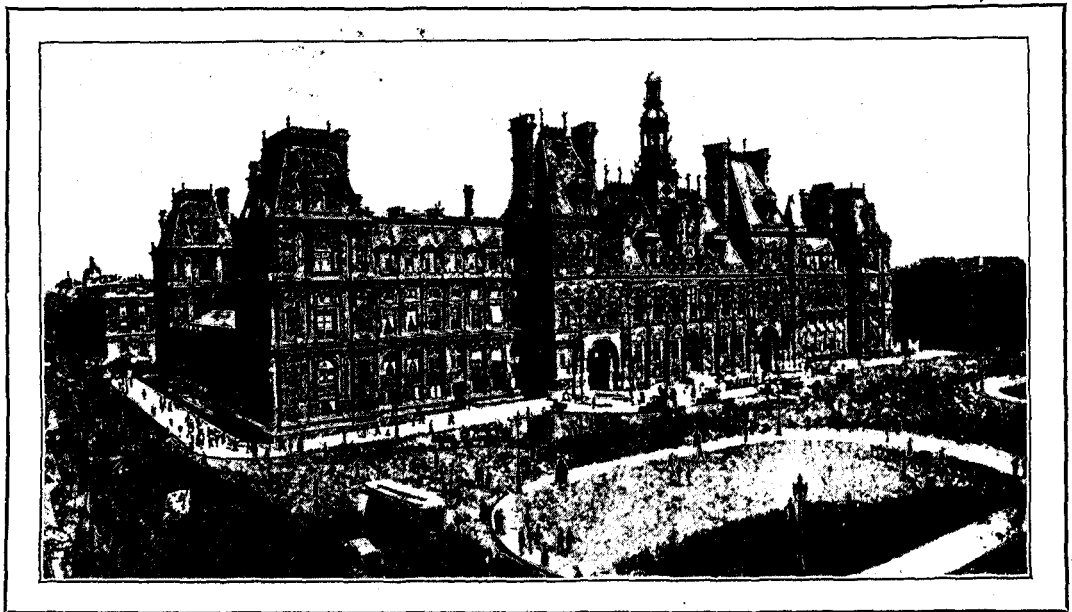
At the same Meeting Miss Christiane H. Reimann, Assistant Matron and Instructor of Nurses at the great Bispebjærg Hospital at Copenhagen, was unanimously appointed to the position and assumed its duties.

The following year, at the request of the President, a meeting of the Executive Committee, and an informal Conference, were convened. They were held in Copenhagen, by invitation of Mrs. Tscherning, when the delegates were received, as also in 1922, with the greatest hospitality and kindness, and no pains were spared to show them as much as possible of this charming country.

HELSINGFORS, 1925.

Not the least of the joys of a Congress convened by the International Council of Nurses is the delight of the journey,

of seeing new countries, of realising afresh the beauty of the world, and the never-failing kindness and hospitality experienced. To the majority of the British contingent travelling to Helsingfors, the route selected afforded an opportunity of spending a few days in Stockholm, one of the loveliest and most interesting capitals of Europe, and from the time of their arrival, when they were met at the station by Sister Bertha Wellin, M.P., President of the Swedish Nurses' Association, and a contingent of its members, to the moment when their boat cast off for the enchanting night journey to Abo, and their Swedish colleagues stood on the quay singing their farewells, every precious minute was arranged for to the best advantage. Arrived at Abo we had a foretaste of the wonderful organisation of the Congress by the Finnish Nurses, for we were welcomed there by some of the Arrangements Committee, who travelled with us to Helsingfors. Baroness Mannerheim, gracious and charming, welcomed us at Headquarters, where Registration Fees were paid, portfolios containing programmes, invitations, Congress Badges, etc., were found labelled with the names of the Members



L'HÔTEL-DE-VILLE, PARIS.

Where on Saturday, July 8th, the Municipality of Paris will entertain the Hon. Officers, Delegates and Members of the Grand Council. I.C.N. Official Speeches, and Signature of the "Livre d'Or."

of Congress, arranged in their respective countries in orderly array, and soon we felt quite at home, and were speedily greeting old friends and making new ones.

What shall be said about Finland? The high professional standard of its nurses, their uniforms neat as a new pin, their helpfulness to their visitors, their obvious efficiency. The Central Preliminary Training School, founded in 1906 with Miss Ellen Nylander as its first Director, the fine hospitals, the two Associations of Nurses, affiliated to form the National Council, its official organ, *Epione*, with Mrs. Neumann Rahn as Editor, its Public Health Nursing Service, directed by Miss Venny Snellman—all these impressed the visitors.

The climate of the country was a surprise to many. We found the temperature in July that of a hot English summer, and the parks and squares blazing with gorgeous flowers. Besides the official excursions by boat up the Sound, and to various beauty spots, many found pleasure in visiting some of the numerous islands and exploring

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)