

the charm of a country even yet little known by the majority of Europeans.

The hospitality—from the Inaugural Dinner given by the National Council of Nurses to the Grand Council of the I.C.N. and other distinguished visitors, at which Baroness Mannerheim presided, was boundless throughout the week, every day provided its own special luncheons, and invitations to teas seemed unlimited. There was a service in the Cathedral with a wonderful sermon in fine English by the Bishop, and a Reception by the President of the Republic.

In the Congress, the Reception of new National Councils and the Reports of the Associate National Representatives, were notable features, and brought us into touch with the personality and work of many interesting pioneers. Especially was a great impression made by Miss Lilian Wu, President of the Nurses' Association of China, who with Miss Nina D. Gage had travelled across Siberia to attend the Congress. She brought an invitation, which was accepted, for the meeting of the I.C.N. in 1929 to be held in Pekin, and Miss Gage was elected President, but later, owing to the unsettled condition of China, this was reluctantly cancelled and the alternative invitation of the Canadian Nurses' Association to meet in Montreal, which was generously repeated, was accepted.

The Meetings of the Congress were, throughout, well attended, and many important and interesting questions, discussed.

A great amount of important business, including the consideration of the Constitution and the drafting of By-laws, was transacted by the Executive Committee and Grand Council. The greater part of the Executive work was done either before the opening of the Congress Sessions in the morning, or after a full day's work and pleasure, usually after 10 o'clock at night. It was evident that, in the future, time must be arranged for the business meetings to be held before the Congress opened. At most of the Executive Meetings Miss Adda Eldridge, President of the American Nurses' Association, was in the chair, and conducted the business with skill and celerity, generally applying the closure with the words "Are you ready for the question?" when discussion had proceeded long enough. Nevertheless, Committees closed at two, three and four o'clock in the early morning to meet again at 8 a.m.

At the close of the Congress the Board of Directors,

which under the revised Constitution had succeeded the Executive Committee, met for the inside of a week for the transaction of business. Here again we experienced the lavish generosity of this hospitable country. We were taken a twelve hours' journey by train to Halila, where we were entertained, the entire expense, including the return railway journey, being defrayed by money contributed by the State and the Finnish National Council of Nurses.

Miss Gage, as President, presided over the meetings of the Board of Directors. In this environment closer intimacy between some thirty persons, inspired by a common purpose, the good of the International Council of Nurses, was more possible than in the large gatherings in Helsingfors. One thing especially we noted with sorrow, the evident illness of dear Sister Agnes Karll. In Copenhagen two years previously, though the years had left their mark upon her, she showed all her accustomed vigour and intellectual clearness and acuteness, but in Helsingfors and especially in Halila she seemed at times lost, as if she was far away from us all. Did she indeed envisage that the beginning of the end was drawing near, and that when the International Council of Nurses next met they would miss her visible presence, and commemorate her unselfish life and the part she had played in the development of the I.C.N. with such conspicuous ability.

It was at the Helsingfors Meeting that Miss E. M. Musson was elected Treasurer of the I.C.N., an onerous and difficult task, the duties of which she has discharged ever since, with conspicuous ability.

Those who attended the Helsingfors Congress returned home full of gratitude to the National Council of Nurses of Finland for the pains they had taken to make the visit of their colleagues to their charming country so delightful.



MLLE. HELLEMANS.

President, National Federation of Belgian Nurses. Chief Hostess in Brussels, July 13th to 15th. Chairman of Programme Committee, I.C.N. Congress.

THE INTERIM CONFERENCE AT GENEVA, 1927.

The term of four years between the Meetings of the Grand Council and Congress of the International Council of Nurses was arranged under the By-Laws adopted at Helsingfors; power was however given to the Board of Directors to convene Interim Conferences and such a Conference was held in Geneva in July, 1927, in conjunction with a meeting of the Board of Directors. That the opportunity was appreciated was evident from the number of nurses who flocked to it. Thirty-four countries sent

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)