

of the I.C.N. There were then applications from five National Councils of Nurses to be considered and a new President to be elected. A Congress, which is no integral part of a Meeting of the Grand Council, was not convened, for so eager were the Associations affiliated in the International Council of Nurses to meet each other once more, that Mrs. Tscherning could not face the descent upon Copenhagen of thousands of nurses, and she foresaw that 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 Bispebjerg 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 the charming surrounding 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 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, *Eptone*, with Mrs. Neuman 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 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 interesting Reports of the 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

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)