

evening, it was a perfect day. We realise that such a day cannot materialise without planning and organisation, and much thought and work on the part of those responsible.

It was a great privilege to see Miss Nightingale's peaceful grave and beautiful old home. It made us all feel very near to her. To just say "thank you" seems most inadequate, but it is a very sincere thank you and it comes from our hearts.—With affectionate regard,

JEAN I. GUNN.

### THE UNION OF NURSES OF THE NORTHERN COUNTRIES AT THE CAFE ROYAL.

The hospitality during the Congress Week, not only on the part of the hostess country, but also of the affiliated associations, seemed limitless, and each day there were invitations to luncheon parties and tea parties besides the larger functions. One of the most original and charming luncheons was that given at the Café Royal, Regent Street, W., on Thursday, July 15th, by the Union of Nurses of the Northern Countries (Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Iceland), at which Sister Bergljot Larsson, of Norway, Hon. Member of the I.C.N., acted as hostess, and was a fine Master of Ceremonies.

On entering the luncheon room we were greeted by charming girls in the picturesque national dress of the Northern Countries, who sang a welcome, and throughout the luncheon added gaiety to the proceedings with their songs so heartily rendered.

Sister Bergljot Larsson was seated in the centre of the long table, opposite to her Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, and near by Dame Alicia Lloyd Still.

The menu, which was printed both in Danish and English, announced a lunch typical of the Northern countries, distinctive and delicious; there was prominent upon it Marinered Sild (pickled herring), Røget Laks (smoked salmon), Spegepølse (Danish sausage), Gasse Bryst (breast of goose) and numerous others delicacies, a welcome change after many English dishes; and between the courses were songs, *hochs* and speeches.

Sister Bergljot Larsson said how natural it seemed to ask those present to lunch with this federation of nurses of the North, and assured the guests that they were all heartily welcome.

Miss Elisabet Lind (Sweden) said that she did not think anyone in the big countries could understand how much trouble it was to those in the small countries to learn English and French and German. However, she must say she had noticed that English, French and German speaking nurses had a little bit of trouble in understanding them, too, and that was all right, otherwise it would be too easy for them.

The five small countries from the North had the pleasure to see some of the Congress members as their guests that day. They wanted in their co-operation to avoid giving an invitation from each one of their countries; they might have been too many. In England they had had no trouble; their hostesses had had it all, and they wanted to thank them most heartily.

Dame Alicia Lloyd Still followed, and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, expressing her thanks for the delightful luncheon, said that the nurses of the North had been some of the first to enter the International Council of Nurses, their friendship had been of long standing and their support invaluable.

Miss Musson and Miss Cox Davies also expressed their thanks for the hospitality of the Northern nurses, and a very happy time came at length to an end, with more songs and "*hochs*," and we passed out into Regent Street and London once more; but not soon will those privileged to be present forget the charming spontaneous welcome, and delightful luncheon given by the Union of Nurses of the Northern Countries to their colleagues in the International Council of Nurses.

### VISIT TO HALTON AIRPORT.

By the kind invitation of Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service, offered through Miss K. C. Watt, Matron-in-Chief, a party of Nurses attending the International Congress of Nurses had the privilege of spending a delightful day at the Halton Airport, near Wendover. On Saturday, July 17th, the visitors were most hospitably received by the Officers and Sisters of the camp and were conducted in small groups around all the places of interest. After a morning spent in the workshops and school a delicious luncheon was served in the officers' mess, which is a beautiful house once the home of a member of the Rothschild family. The spacious hall and beautiful staircase were much admired, and the spreading lawns, rose garden and lily pond still maintain the glory of the English country house. The Italian Garden has, alas, lost much of its former elegance, but in its decay there lingers still the stateliness of the pre-war days. The afternoon was spent in the hospital and the visitors were then invited to partake of a delicious tea in the Sisters' Mess. The party was taken from Wendover station and around the extensive airport by motor coach.

The first part visited was the workshops. Here parties of four were conducted by officers who explained the work in each section. The enormous increase, both in scope and personnel, in this, the youngest Service, was only understood when it was explained that in this Airport alone there are some four or five thousand boys in training for the Force. The recruits are not taught flying here, but are put through a three years' course of preliminary training in aeroplane construction and the theory of flying. A few aeroplanes are kept for purposes of demonstration and to give the recruits the "feeling" of flying. Part of the three years is spent in the workshops and part in the school.

From the workshops the visitors were taken to the schools, where in a short talk the scope of the course of study was described. This is calculated to teach the lads, not only aeroplane construction and the theory of aeronautics, but also something of the geography and customs of the countries to which they may be posted in the course of their service. In one of the rooms a class was being taught draughtsmanship. Perhaps the most fascinating thing in the school for the visitors was the smoke tunnel. The introduction of streamlining in aeroplane and motor-car construction and the consequent reduction of loss of power due to the retarding influence of air eddies was demonstrated with the greatest clarity in the smoke tunnel. In another wind tunnel the method of stabilising the planes when the angle of flight is altered was clearly shown. The party would have liked to spend much longer studying the fascinating details in the school and workshops, but time would not permit. A peep into the barracks gave an idea of the living conditions of the recruits and in the kitchens the modern equipment provided great interest.

During the afternoon the party visited the large hospital attached to the Airport. This provides beds, not only for the men, but also for their wives and children in the families section. The fine airy wards were much admired and the beautiful view and open grounds made some of the party sigh with envy. The theatres, sterilising rooms and electrical and physical treatment rooms were of special interest. The sisters assured the party that the beds numbering over four hundred are in almost constant use.

At the end of a very delightful day the visitors took reluctant farewell of their kind hosts, and all agreed that the memory of this visit will always remain, both on account of its interest and of the very gracious welcome accorded by the officers and Sisters.

I. M. H.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)