

## THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

### BRITISH-DANISH NURSES EXCHANGE HOLIDAY SCHEME.

We have much pleasure in presenting the thanks of the President of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to those who helped to make the visit of the Danish Nurses to Britain such an unqualified success:—

"May I convey my gratitude and thanks to the Matrons and Nurses and all of those who helped to make the Danish Nurses holiday the great success it proved to be.

The Danish Nurses were deeply moved by the thoughtful considerations they received, and I ask you to please accept my best thanks for the help you have given.

KATHERINE F. ARMSTRONG, *President.*"

At a gay little tea party arranged by the National Council of Nurses to speed the parting guests, the Danish Nurses expressed their thanks for their happy stay in this country, and in appreciation presented gifts to the President and Executive Secretary.

At this gathering one caught sight of Dame Ellen Musson, Miss M. S. Cochrane (who had made the arrangements for their stay here), Miss H. McLoughlin (President of the British College of Nurses, Ltd.), Mrs. T. Barbér, and Matrons and Nurses from the different hospitals who had entertained the guests.

We feel sure that the exchange visits of British and Danish Nurses will do much to further cement friendship between our two countries.

It was a very happy thought put into action when the Board of Directors of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland invited the nurses (in and around London) who had visited Denmark under the exchange holiday scheme to a Tea Party at 45, Gloucester Place, W.1, on Friday July 16th, 1948. This is not the moment for details of the trip as a fuller description of the holiday will be given on another page of this Journal. The guests, with much laughter and talk, recalled the events, thrills and occasions so recently experienced, and it was evident to the onlooker that all had returned from a most enjoyable sojourn in Denmark. After partaking of a delicious tea, there was a short sit-down question and answer period, during which comparison with nursing conditions, etc., in this country and Denmark and the outstanding impressions made on the visitors were discussed. The educational value of such schemes of interchange to the whole world of Nursing is so obvious and so timely in these days of international uncertainties that it is to be

hoped this most praiseworthy effort in the direction of better relations between nations is only the beginning of something very much bigger.

B. G. S.

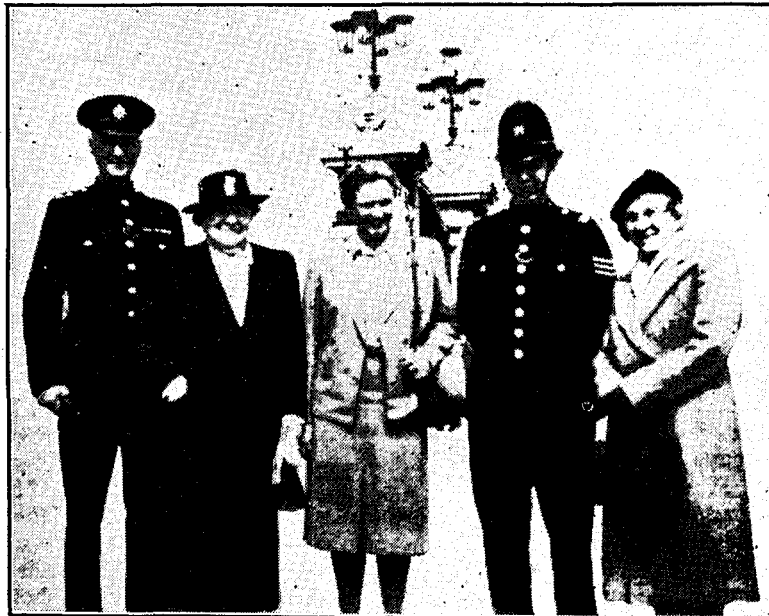
The National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland cannot yet publish final plans of the Interim Congress, of the International Council of Nurses which is to be held in Stockholm from June 12th to June 16th, inclusive, next year; but as numerous inquiries have already reached the Council's new headquarters at 17, Portland Place, W.1, the following information will help affiliated societies and individual members to make their plans. The most important point to remember is that Stockholm can only hold a limited number of nurses; the total number able to attend will probably be between 3,000 and 4,000. The Swedish National Council of Nurses has suggested limiting the number of its own members who can be present to make room for nurses from other countries; other National Councils will

not wish Stockholm to favour them unduly, we feel sure, as it is the balance of the opinion of the many member countries which makes the Congress so valuable. However, with its comparatively large national membership, Great Britain will probably be allowed to send about 500 nurses. As this Congress is the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the International Council, through the initiative of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, of Great Britain, its Founder, there is little doubt that British nurses will quickly take up all these places.

Only State Registered Nurses can attend the Congress

and they must provide evidence of the fact that they are active members of one of the nursing organisations affiliated to the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain. The National Council will send out a special form to all nurses who apply to go to Stockholm for the Congress, and this they will need to return properly filled in before they receive the card permitting them to attend. Certain nurses will go as representatives and delegates from the various affiliated associations, but any nurse who is a member of any affiliated body, either a professional organisation, such as the Royal College of Nursing, the British College of Nurses, or the Association of Hospital Matrons, or a hospital league, can attend as an individual and will find it a most profitable and enjoyable experience not only for the valuable sessions, but also for the many contacts she will make with other nurses. Further information will appear shortly.

The National Council of Nurses of Finland has written inviting British nurses to visit their country at any time. Scottish nurses may find it more convenient to travel



Miss Anna Berg (centre) outside Buckingham Palace.

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