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## Editorial.

### The Spirit Lives.

IT GAVE GREAT SATISFACTION to find that there was a free evening in the excellent itinerary arranged by the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in which to extend hospitality to the 21 Swedish Matrons while visiting this country.

So it was that, on the evening of Wednesday, August 2nd, delighted to have the opportunity of meeting distinguished international colleagues, the President of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., Miss Helena McLoughlin, S.R.N., F.B.C.N., supported by Miss M. Thurnham, S.R.N., F.B.C.N., Vice-President, Mrs. Thomas Barber, D.N., F.B.C.N., Miss A. Stewart Bryson, S.R.N., F.B.C.N., Hon. Secretary, Miss A. A. Ward, S.R.N., M.B.C.N., Miss M. Wakefield, S.R.N., F.B.C.N., welcomed these ladies to dinner at the Regent Palace Hotel, London. Our guests were:—

Mrs. Ebba Cederberg-Fahlborg; Mrs. Elisabet Dillner, Member of the Board of Directors, Swedish Nurses' Association; Daisy Edikson; Karin Engström; Emmy Elfren; Karin Elferson, Vice-President, Swedish Nurses' Association; Hanna Grönberg; Anna Groos; Anna-Lisa Gustafsson; Elin Hakeman; Rut Hallgardt; Martha Liljedahl; Ester Mählén; Ella Månsson; Mrs. Hanna Malmström; Märta Nihlén; Mia Persson; Greta Rosenkvist; Elsa Segerstedt; Anna-Lotta Styf; Lakla Svedin; Miss Muriel Edwards, M.V.O., S.R.N., Hon. Treasurer, and Miss F. Rowe, S.R.N., Executive Secretary, National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; Miss Claribel McCorquodale, representing the International Council of Nurses; Miss Isabel Macdonald, S.R.N., F.B.C.N., Secretary, Royal British Nurses' Association; and Miss L. Clark, S.R.N., F.B.C.N.

As all assembled to take their seats at this happy informal function, there lay at each cover a nosegay of greeting in our national colours—carnations, red and white, with royal blue cornflowers—which we felt was also a token of the joy and refreshment that springs from true internationalism. So we foregathered with the greatest interest and pleasure to meet these expert Nurse Administrators from Sweden.

We were grateful that the fates had granted us the privilege of making the evening a means of reminding our guests of the British Nurses' deep appreciation of the wonderful hospitality extended to them when attending the International Conference of Nurses held in Stockholm in 1949.

As we conversed we were soon on mutual ground, concerning the many difficulties to be solved for the better service of the sick, notably the shortage of suitable candidates.

The trend of thought, however, was not on these serious, burning questions, but rather of happy experiences relating to a never-to-be-forgotten visit to Sweden—when *en route* for Finland in 1925, a glorious three days!

Never shall we forget that bright Scandinavian morning as our British delegation of Nurses stepped from the train at Stockholm and Sister Bertha Wellin, M.P., President of the Swedish Nurses' Association, came forward with warm welcome, asking for Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, whose absence was deplored, helping us to find our hotels, and finally a cordial invitation to lunch, as guests of the Swedish Nurses' Association—a charming function!

How profoundly impressed we were, that Swedish Nurses were represented in their Parliament by a member of their own profession, and in the personality of the large-hearted Bertha Wellin—a great triumph indeed (a just privilege which, we note with admiration, the Swedish Nursing Profession still maintains).

As we chatted, trying to convey to our guests something of our appreciation of the beauty of their country, our thoughts carried us off as on a magic carpet—we saw again that unique city of Stockholm, with the running tide of the sea in its midst, the splendour of its ancient and modern architecture, the magnificent new City Hall (then recently completed), finally in perfect July weather a day spent at that most lovely island of the archipelago—Saltsjöbaden!

This pleasant evening with our guests touched the cord reminiscent of the Founder, whose genius had made it possible for Nurses to participate in the joy and refreshment of Internationalism.

When we came to farewells and the parting of the ways, Mrs. Elisabeth Dillner, our leading guest, in expressing very gracious thanks, spoke of her warm admiration for Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, whose forceful speaking she would never forget, and declared that in the atmosphere of the whole evening she had felt the spirit of Mrs. Fenwick was with us, which she thought we had recaptured! May it remain and inspire this, and generations of Nurses to come.

A. S. B.

### ODE.

We are the music makers,  
And we are the dreamers of dreams,  
Wandering by lone sea-breakers,  
And sitting by desolate streams:  
World-losers and world-forsakers,  
On whom the pale moon gleams:  
Yet we are the movers and shakers  
Of the world for ever, it seems.

BY ARTHUR O'SHAUGHNESSY.

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