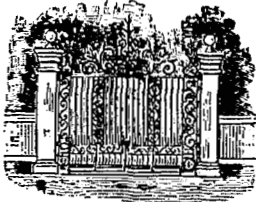


**Outside the Gates.**

## CONGRESS NOTES.



As the time draws near for the "gathering of the clans" at the Women's Congress, numerous offers of hospitality are being made, and as it is hoped that hundreds of women will attend the Congress, it is wise that hostesses should choose their own guests.

THE Duke and Duchess of Sutherland have most generously put their lovely house at the disposal of the Committee of Arrangements, and some four hundred guests, including all the delegates and invited speakers, will receive invitations to be present at the *Conversazione* on the evening of the Opening Day, the 26th of June. Admission for Members of Congress—that is, those who have taken a ticket at 7s. 6d. or 5s., will be required to pay 5s. for admission, so that the function may be self supporting, it not being considered justifiable to use the Congress Fund for purposes of social entertainment, and this system pertains at many congresses on the Continent.

LADY BATTERSEA and Mrs. Yerburgh have large parties for officers of the National Councils, delegates and invited speakers; and Mrs. Creighton and Lady Rothschild have garden parties for all Members of Congress. Mrs. Gully gives tea on the terrace of the House of Commons to some fifty eminent guests, and the Women's Clubs are in numerous instances arranging parties.

THE latest is, we hear, to be a very smart luncheon to be given by the new Society of American Women in London, to their most eminent compatriots at the Hotel Cecil. This promises to be a very brilliant little function—imagine "the feast of reason and flow of soul" with Mrs. Sewall, Miss Susan Anthony Dr. Hackett Stevenson, Mrs. Florence Kelly, "Julia Marlow," Mrs. Hampton Robb, and a dozen others all gathered together around the festive board.

THEN the Matrons' Council have arranged to entertain all the foreign members of the nursing profession—to meet Mrs. Sewall and the Honorary Members" at dinner at the Criterion on the evening of the Nursing Session, when Miss Isla Stewart will preside, and pin on the charming little badge of the Society. We predict this also will be a most interesting occasion, and one at which many happy little speeches will be made.

## WOMEN.

It has been decided to give the name "Victoria and Albert Museum" to the New Building at South Kensington, the foundation-stone of which will be laid by the Queen on May 17.

Before leaving Kilkenny, the Duchess of York paid visits to all the most interesting institutions in the city. On leaving the cathedral her Royal Highness visited the St. John of God convent. The sisters at that establishment conducted her through the industrial department, and showed her some finely-wrought fabrics and exquisite laces. These were much admired by the duchess, who seemed greatly surprised at the admirable work carried on by the community.

An Exchange Telegraph Company's telegram from Allahabad reports that the High Court has refused on general principles of sex to enrol as a legal practitioner Miss Sorabji, a Parsee lady, who has had a singularly distinguished English University career.

It is interesting in this connection to note that Miss Octavia Williams Bates, of the United States, who will open the discussion on "Professions open to Women," at the forthcoming Congress, is a fully qualified Doctor of Laws, and has a flourishing practice at Detroit, U.S.A.

The *Daily Mail* is doing good service in exposing the "advertising duchesses," who pose as philanthropists in a very cheap and nasty manner. These ladies give entertainments in support of charities and do not pay the professional artists—men and women in numerous instances who earn their living by their various talents. The advertisement and patronage are presumed to be adequate payment—this is an instance in which "the woman" does not "pay"—and the sooner this species of economy is discontinued by women of title, the better for their class. Working artists at the same time should have the moral courage not to pander to this species of meanness. *Punch* is excellent on the situation.

As a professional woman we have always resented the manner in which nursing is "patronised" by women of title, who would shudder at the sight of a wound, and collapse after one night's "night duty," but who greedily attempt to absorb every position of influence and iota of prestige to be reaped from the organising ability and labour of the nursing profession. Some day we hope to see such positions bestowed on the devoted women who have worked for and earned them, as is the case in the United States Republic.

The meetings of the Women's Liberal Federation will take place this year, in Westbourne Park Chapel, on May 9th, 10th and 11th, when some 800 or 900 delegates of the 500 associations, which compose the federation will assemble. The meetings are weeks earlier than last year's. Lady Carlisle remains president. None who attended the meetings last year will have forgotten the enthusiasm with which she was greeted when she proposed to retire from the presidency.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)