

RECEPTION AT LANCASTER HOUSE, ST. JAMES'S BY THE INVITATION OF HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT.

As the guests of His Majesty's Government the Minister of Health and Lady Kingsley Wood welcomed a thousand delegates and guests at Lancaster House, St. James's, on the evening of Monday, July 19th, after the opening of the Congress.

Hundreds of cars and taxis clamoured for right of way to the imposing entrance of this great mansion, interesting once as a residence of the Dukes of Sutherland, and now a popular museum.

Passing over the imposing portico, the fine hall is reached, from which the magnificent staircase is approached—on its walls are copies by Lorenzi, of pictures by Veronese in Venice, Verona and Brescia. How imposing the sight! as this multitudinous procession of members of the nursing profession from all over the world are seen ascending.

Tradition compels pause for reflection on what scenes of splendour have passed here in this "the noblest of the private palaces of the capital," so Lord Morley said; and did not Queen Victoria, on one of her visits, say to Harriet Duchess of Sutherland, "My dear, I am come from my house to your palace."

Its history records illustrious functions, held in aid of great causes—Chopin played there, Grisi sang, and the victorious Garibaldi met Mr. Gladstone when receiving hospitality under its roof.

And all the lovely women and brave men who frequented its halls in the last century! How well we remember them!

But there is not time to tarry further, the crowd moves up to the spacious balcony on the next floor, and passing to the ante-room, adjacent to the old ballroom and drawing-room, each member and guest of the Congress is most graciously received by the Minister of Health and Lady Kingsley Wood. Passing through another doorway to a labyrinth of rooms and corridors now used as the London Museum, passing through these once glorious apartments—The Royal Room, the drawing-room, the old ball-room, and the picture-gallery, in which Guercino's Assumption of St. Chrysogonus is still to be seen in its ceiling.

This last, now the Costume Gallery of the museum, is of especial interest this year, as the Coronation Robes are on view worn by the Kings and Queens of some generations of the British Throne.

Of what piquance too! is the wedding dress, also there, of Queen Victoria, to those who so recently have been thrilled by the scenes of "Victoria Regina."

Next come corridors and rooms where cabinets full of lovely Chelsea Porcelain, its quality never excelled by any factory, every moment presented some treasure for inspection or the greeting of International friends, then down through the great hall to the marquee in the garden, where, amidst happy chatter, refreshments of the best were enjoyed. Thus concluded a memorable evening when generous hospitality was extended by His Majesty's Government to the great International Congress of Nurses, held in this Year of Grace 1937. What a change in status from the days of Dickens! It was an auspicious opening to the week's work and festivities, and special gratification was expressed at the Government's recognition.

LUNCHEON TO MUNICIPAL MATRONS FROM OVERSEAS.

The Luncheon given by the County and County Borough Hospital Matrons' Association on July 21st was characterised by the spirit of friendliness and good will which prevailed throughout Congress week.

The luncheon was held in the Hollywood suite of Prince's Galleries, Piccadilly, and the guests were 50 Matrons of various nationalities whose Hospitals are not supported by voluntary contributions, also Miss Bannon, C.B.E., Matron-in-Chief of the London County Council Public Health Service, and Miss Barton, R.R.C., the Founder of the Poor Law Infirmary Matrons' Association.

The guests were received by the President, Miss Dodds, R.R.C., and soon afterwards took their places in the luncheon room, each guest sitting between two members of the association.

Before beginning lunch the President tendered on behalf of the Association a very hearty welcome.

The luncheon left nothing to be desired. The President gave the toasts, "The King," "The Queen and Royal Family."

Miss L. Clark, M.B.E., R.R.C., made a graceful little speech proposing the health of "Our Guests" to which Miss Bannon, C.B.E., replied in beautifully enunciated well-chosen words.

The proceedings terminated with a Vote of Thanks to the President proposed by Miss Inglis.

One of the guests remarked: "I came thousands of miles to the Congress and I am enjoying every minute of it."

We are glad this luncheon was such a great success, as the Association was one of the very first organisations to offer hospitality to members of Congress.

RECEPTION OF JOINT FEVER NURSES' ASSOCIATIONS TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

Wednesday, July 21st, marked a very happy occasion when the Infectious Hospitals Matrons' Association and the League of Fever Nurses, together held a Reception in honour of Members attending the great International Congress of Nurses.

The Guests were received in the Edward VII Room at the Hotel Victoria, Northumberland Avenue, W.C., by the presiding Hostesses, Miss H. McLoughlin, President, Infectious Hospitals Matrons' Association, and Miss W. P. Solomon, R.R.C., President, the League of Fever Nurses, and Miss S. A. Villiers, J.P. and Miss M. Drakard, ex-Presidents, and Miss J. T. Ruddy, Vice-President and Hon. Secretary of the League of Fever Nurses. Among those welcomed to this merry party of a hundred people were guests and members from Belgium, France, Canada, Palestine, New Zealand, Australia, Pennsylvania; Scotland and Ireland gathered where were tables ready spread with bright carnations and roses.

Miss S. A. Villiers in expressing a warm welcome to the Guests on behalf of the Associations said how honoured they were to have the opportunity of meeting colleagues from so many countries, and they were especially delighted that Mlle. Hellemans, the ex-President of the last Quadrennial Congress held in Brussels in 1933, was able to be present. She felt sure that all who had been privileged to take part in that wonderful Congress in Brussels would ever remember the great kindness and splendid hospitality extended by the Belgian Nurses to them then. Miss Villiers then asked Mlle. Hellemans to accept a bouquet of carnations on behalf of herself and the Belgian Nurses.

The apology for absence from the Founder of the International Council of Nurses, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was received with much regret, and at the conclusion of a truly international conclave, carnations and roses, already prepared in expectation of her presence, were sent to her with love and gratitude from the Associations.

Thus ended a memorable Congress event spent with colleagues of many lands; in mutual co-operation of ideals for the progress of the Nursing Profession throughout the world.

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