

received *eleven* invitations in one day. These social gatherings have been one of the most useful and potent factors in the success of the Congress, for it is in the quiet little talks between those interested in the same or kindred work, the interchange of thought and experience from which it is possible to gauge opinion on certain points, which enable one to form just and liberal opinions.

LORD and Lady Battersea's party on Wednesday evening was most brilliant, and there one met many men and women of influence in the various worlds of art, literature, and politics, which gave first impetus to the Congress. The banks and jars of flowers up from Overstrand, also the magnificent fruits from the same renowned gardens, were lovely and delicious, and Surrey House, crammed as it is with fine works of art, carvings, pictures, china, antique furniture, was an endless source of pleasure to those who appreciate the handicraft of genius. Lord and Lady Battersea were the most genial of hosts, and charmed all comers by their simple and homely kindness.

THEN, on Saturday, the Bishop of London and Mrs. Creighton welcomed all members of Congress to Fulham Palace, where, also, everything was done for the happiness of the guests. The old Henry 5th Chamber, with its ancient fittings and historic memories, proved, of course, most interesting to the guests, and music and good cheer enlivened all present.

THE garden party at Gunnersbury, given by Lady Rothschild, and Mrs. Leopold de Rothschild, was a great success, and the many members of the Congress who availed themselves of the invitation to visit Gunnersbury spent a most enjoyable afternoon. Special trains were provided for the guests, and carriages awaited them at the station. Their arrival in the neighbourhood caused no small stir, and many people assembled to see the visitors. The lovely gardens were looking their best. Lady Rothschild and Mrs. Leopold de Rothschild were charming hostesses, and nothing was wanting to make the afternoon one of complete enjoyment.

THE rooms of the Institute of Painters in Water Colours were thronged on Tuesday evening last, at the last of the social functions of the Congress, a reception given by the Countess of Aberdeen, the retiring President. The Members of Congress availed themselves largely of this opportunity for social intercourse, and finally separated, expressing many regrets that the great Quinquennial Gathering of the International Council, to which they had so long looked forward, and which has been such a splendid success, is now a thing of the past.

## The Nurses' Banquet.

THE Matrons' Council also took its place as hostess, and we have been told and quite believe that the banquet given at the Criterion Restaurant on the 30th ult. to meet Mrs. May Wright Sewall and the Hon. Members of the Council, was one of the most enjoyable episodes in the social gatherings of the week.

UPWARDS of eighty guests were present, and Miss Isla Stewart, wearing a handsome black gown relieved with passementerie on pale green chiffon, received the guests in the Princes' Room, dinner being served in the Victorian Rooms. The tables, beautifully decorated by Miss Janet Stewart, Miss Harris, Mrs. Lancelot Andrews, and Miss Cox-Davies, were a combination of rose-pink and green—lovely pink roses, sweet peas, and asparagus fern, placed on a ground of pale green—made a most charming scheme of decoration, and the guests in the gayest of spirits had but one regret, that there were hospital matrons who were unable to be present.

At the Chairman's table were placed Mrs. Wright Sewall, Mrs. Neill, Miss Lavinia Dock, Dr. Sarah Hackett Stevenson, of Chicago, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Mrs. Scharlieb, M.D., Mrs. Dickenson Berry, M.D., Lady Roberts-Austen, Mrs. Willoughby Cummings, of Canada, Mrs. Fisher Unwin, Mrs. Montefiore, Mrs. Fenwick Miller, Mrs. Quintard, of New York, Miss Lucy Walker, of Philadelphia, Miss Elizabeth Scovil, of Concord, Miss Watkins, of Kimberley, Mrs. Hintze, and Miss Palmer, of New York, Mrs. Norrie, from Denmark, and Miss Huxley and Miss Mollett, Vice-Chairmen of the Council.

THE end of the centre table was taken by Miss Gertrude Knight, Vice-Chairman of the Matrons' Council, and Matron of the Nottingham General Hospital, the other tables being presided over by Miss Butler, Matron of the Samaritan Free Hospital, and Miss Wingfield, late Matron of the Macclesfield Infirmary, respectively. Amongst those present at these tables were Miss Lutken, Matron of the Royal Garrison Hospital, Copenhagen, Miss Godfrey, of New Zealand, Miss Sampson, Assistant Superintendent of the Johns Hopkins' Hospital, Baltimore, Mrs. Clemens, United States, Miss Mock, of Holland, Miss Cutler, of Cairo, Miss Smedley, Matron of St. George's Hospital, Miss O'Hurlbatt, Principal of Bedford College, Miss O'Connor Eccles, Mrs. Greenwood, Miss Foley, Matron of the Royal Hospital, Richmond, Miss Poole, Matron of the East Lancashire Infirmary, Blackburn, Miss Bradshaw, Matron of the Donnybrook Hospital, Dublin,

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