

Glimpses of the Congress.

As we foretold from the first, the Opening Day of the International Congress was a stupendous success, and fifteen hundred women thronged the great Convocation Hall to listen to the Presidential Address, and to the greetings of the delegates. The utmost enthusiasm prevailed, and there is little doubt that our foreign guests were well pleased with their warm welcome.

THE reception at Stafford House on Monday evening was a delightful gathering, the guests being received by the Duchess of Sutherland, most lovely of women, and the Countess of Aberdeen. The house softly lighted, and a perfect bower of lovely flowers, entranced all those who have never before been within: for the American guests' memories of the historic gathering convened by a beautiful past Duchess of Sutherland to meet the author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," were quite fresh, and the scene from the balcony, flooded with moonlight away over the dim gardens, was, indeed, a dream of beauty.

THE whole party was very well done, the Blue Hungarian Band played gaily, and the ball-room, where most excellent refreshments were served, was a most popular spot, from whence issued snatches of laughter and gay conversation, which made themselves heard above the cheerful tinkling of the tea-cups.

THE meeting of medical women, on Tuesday, was evidently popular, and crowded to the doors, and as soon as the discussion was at an end, Mrs. Garrett Anderson, M.D., and the staff of the New Hospital for Women, received the foreign medical guests, and nurses, and other friends, to a very sumptuous and well-served tea. The charming little hospital was quite *en fete*, the wards most artistically decorated in "symphonies" of blue and pink flowers, one prettier than the other. Guests were shown the new operating theatre and Nurses' Home, and thoroughly admired the exquisite cleanliness and order of the women's very, very own hospital.

DR. SARAH HACKETT STEVENSON'S paper on the "Training and Qualifications of Women Doctors" was listened to with the great interest to which it was entitled. Her views on the midwife question were noteworthy:—"A midwife is not a physician nor a trained nurse, she is 'neither fish, flesh, fowl, nor good red herring,' and her social position is that of a menial. The whole field of medicine is covered thoroughly by the trained physician and the trained nurse, there is no room for, no demand for, a middle-man

especially an ignoramus. A midwife is a most dangerous creature, because she has so 'little learning.' There is no half way house in obstetrics, it demands full knowledge of both medicine and surgery. She is dangerous to the patient, but she is especially dangerous to the woman physician, because, in the mind of the laity, she stands for woman in medicine. I have no objection to a class of specially trained women who shall look after normal cases of obstetrics, if there be such a thing as a normal case, but let all such be called obstetrical nurses with the rank and qualification of the trained nurse. Specialization in nursing is quite as legitimate and necessary as in medicine, then we are rid of that obnoxious name and person known as 'midwife.'"

WE are glad that this, the first pronouncement of this kind, has been made by so eminent a medical practitioner as Dr. Hackett Stevenson, and are pleased to find that her views coincide so entirely with those always advanced in this journal.

A MOST enjoyable function was the "At Home" given to the nursing members of the Congress and other invited guests by Miss Isla Stewart Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, to meet the foreign nurses now in London. The latter responded largely to Miss Stewart's invitation, and we noticed amongst those present Mrs. Neill, of New Zealand, Mrs. Quintard, Miss L. L. Dock, Miss Lucy Walker, Miss Sophia Palmer, Miss Hintze, Miss Hutchinson and Miss Daney, from the United States, Miss Scovil and Miss Kimber, from Canada, Mrs. Norrie and Miss Lutken, from Denmark, Miss Mock, from Sweden, and Miss M. H. Watkins, from Cape Colony. Of British Matrons, there were present Miss Gordon, of St. Thomas' Hospital, Miss H. Gordon, Charing Cross Hospital, Miss Smedley, St. George's Hospital, Miss M. Huxley, Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, Dublin, Miss Poole, of Blackburn, Miss Knight, of Nottingham, and many others, whom space fails us to mention.

THE guests did ample justice to the many good things provided for them, and while strawberries and cream were being discussed many old friendships were renewed and new ones made. After tea, the wards were visited, and then many of the visitors adjourned to the beautiful old church of St. Bartholomew the Great, and inspected the tomb of Rahere, the founder of the Hospital and Priory. The time to say good-bye came all too quickly, and one and all expressed their hearty appreciation of Miss Stewart's kindness and hospitality, and of the delightful opportunity of meeting their colleagues thus afforded to them.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)