

Welcome to the American Nurses.

The news that a party of American nurses, members of their National Associated Alumnae, would pass through London, immediately aroused a keen desire on the part of English nurses to provide for their entertainment in a fitting manner, and a small committee was formed to carry out the arrangements. Mrs. Walter Spencer undertook the position of Hon. Secretary, and spared no pains to make the occasion a successful one.

Monday, June 6th, was devoted to the entertainment of our guests, and at 9.30 a.m. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Amy Hughes, Miss Huxley, and Mrs. Walter Spencer picked up the American contingent at their hotel in a roomy brake, and, with the help of a most humorous and well-informed driver, showed them about as much of London as it was possible for human beings to see in the space of one morning. Holborn, Smithfield Market (the scene of mediæval martyrdom), Pye Corner (where the Great Fire of London was at last arrested), Henry VIII.'s gate leading into St. Bartholomew's quadrangle, the sites of the historic Bluecoat School and Newgate Prison, up Cheapside to the sound of Bow Bells, the Mansion House, Royal Exchange, Bank of England, Pudding Lane and the Monument (where the Great Fire originated), Thames Street Market, the site of Guy's, Cannon Street, St. Paul's (where a few minutes were spent listening to the magnificent organ), Ludgate Hill, a glance up Fleet Street, Blackfriars Bridge, along the Embankment, past the Temple Gardens and Somerset House, public buildings and magnificent hotels on one side to the right, Father Thames, wharves, and shipping to the left, a rest on Westminster Bridge, where a beautiful view of St. Thomas's Hospital, Houses of Parliament and picturesque stretches of the river from right to left were obtained; then on to the strangers' entrance to the House. Here, by the courtesy of the Lord Chamberlain and the forethought of Mrs. Spencer, a special permit was provided for inspection of the House of Lords, including the robing-room and magnificent library, where that exquisite work of art, the bust of the girl Queen Victoria by Noble, aroused the warmest expressions of admiration; a visit to the House of Commons and Westminster Hall; thence across the road to Westminster Abbey. Here the time was all too short to inspect this venerable pile and its unique contents, but Poets' Corner, Dickens's grave, Henry VII.'s Chapel, the tombs of departed kings and queens, and other memorials of national veneration absorbed attention for a few brief minutes. Outside the Abbey our lively Jehu awaited the party in sight of Westminster Hospital, and drove them away through St. James's Park past the Horse Guards, the Duke of York's column, up the im-

posing Mall to Buckingham Palace. Thence up Constitution Hill, past the Green Park to Hyde Park Corner, where St. George's Hospital occupies so prominent a site, and by Knightsbridge on west, where the party again alighted to inspect the gorgeous Albert Memorial. On the return route the Imperial Institute, National Museums, Belgrave Square, Grosvenor Place, and the haunt of the millionaire—Park Lane—gave some proof of the taste and wealth of the nation. From the Marble Arch to Oxford Circus, and thence punctually at two o'clock to St. Andrew's House. The long drive in the fresh morning air had added a touch of additional keenness to the pleasurable anticipation of Miss Debenham's hospitality. Luncheon was served in the pleasant dining-room, which, with its red walls and oak fittings, formed a delightful background for the scene. It goes without saying the luncheon was served in most dainty style, and the lovely display of flowers greatly enhanced its attractive appearance.

After lunch the guests adjourned to the lounge, where tea and coffee were served, and then the American guests inspected the building from roof to basement, and were enthusiastic in their admiration, declaring that they had nothing like the club in America. By four o'clock, Miss Debenham's guests, with many expressions of appreciation of her charming and generous hospitality, had dispersed, to meet again later.

How is that for hustling?

THE DINNER.

The idea that the visitors should dine with British nurses, as their guests, was a happy one, and those who remember the success of the Matrons' Council Dinner in 1899 warmly welcomed the proposal to attend so pleasant a function. Dinner was served in the Victoria Room at the Criterion Restaurant at 8 o'clock, and at 7.30 Miss Isla Stewart, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Peter (Q.V.J.I.), Miss Amy Hughes (Q.V.J.I.), Miss Mollett, Miss Cartwright, Miss Brey, and Mrs. Walter Spencer, members of the Committee, received the guests in the Carnarvon Room.

The guests of honour were Miss Mary E. Thornton, R.N., Secretary of the Nurses' National Associated Alumnae of the United States, Registered Nurse under the laws of New York; Miss Harriet Fulmer, Superintendent Visiting Nurses' Association, Chicago; Miss Katherine Sanborn, Superintendent St. Vincent's Hospital, New York; Miss McGachan, Matron City Hospital, Ithaca; Miss Anna Hanson, Visiting Nurse; Miss Katherine McEvoy; Miss Kate Baker, Registered Nurse under the laws of New Jersey; Miss N. Lackland, Miss Schertzer, and Miss Louisa T. Acker, Private Nurses.

Amongst those present were the Lady Helen Munro Ferguson, the Lady Hermione Blackwood; Miss Sidney Browne, R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief Q.A.I.M.N.S.; Miss Huxley, President Irish Nurses'

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)