

SOCIAL FUNCTIONS.**THE GAITY RESTAURANT.**

On July 19th, the International Council day, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick entertained to luncheon, at the Gaiety Restaurant, the Presidents and delegates of the International Council. Hostesses at other tables were:—Mrs. Walter Spencer, Miss Mollett, Miss Forrest, Miss Huxley, Miss Cartwright, and Miss Hurlston, and it was a right merry party, brimming over with friendliness and fun, and with the spirit of internationalism.

ST. JOHN'S HOUSE.

A very enjoyable "At-Home" was given on Monday afternoon to the Presidents and Delegates of the International and National Councils of Nurses by the President and members of the St. John's House Nurses' League. About 150 responded to the invitation, and much appreciated tea, music, and talk in the cool, quiet rooms and garden situated in the heart of London.

Much interest was shown by the guests in the house and chapel, and each guest was presented with a copy of the "Short History of St. John's House," containing a facsimile copy of a letter from Miss Nightingale. This thoughtful and timely gift was much appreciated. The rooms and garden were gay with flowers, bunting, and flags of many nations. The word "Welcome," surrounded by flowers, was placed in the entrance hall facing the door, and everyone was indeed given the warmest and heartiest welcome by their hostesses.

A party of fifty-eight, under the guidance of Miss Macvitie and Miss Clara Lee, visited the Tower of London, and greatly appreciated the opportunity of admission to parts of this historic building not usually shown to visitors.

THE INFANTS' HOSPITAL.

Fifteen members of the Congress availed themselves of the kind invitation of Miss Worthington, the Matron, and Dr. Ralph Vincent, the Senior Physician, to visit the Infants' Hospital, Vincent Square, S.W. They were received by the Matron and Dr. Vincent, and the latter gave a short account of the work done. The visitors were then shown the wards, laboratory, kitchen, nurses' home, etc., the founder, Mr. Mond, kindly helping to explain all points of interest.

Tea was kindly provided by the Matron, and Dr. Vincent presented each visitor with a copy of his book, "Lectures on Babies."

THE RECEPTION AT BART'S.

In the evening Miss Isla Stewart entertained between 400 and 500 guests in the Great Hall of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, including the Presidents and official delegates of the International Council, fraternal delegates, and other members of the Congress. The hall looked charming and was much admired by the guests, the hospitality, needless to say when Miss Isla Stewart was the hostess, was delightful, the flowers lovely, and the guests enchanted. There could scarcely be a more fitting setting for that exercise of the international hospitality, which is one of the objects of the International Council of Nurses, than the historic Hall of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, with its record of centuries of healing.

International Congress of Nurses.

TUESDAY, JULY 20th.

10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

The International Congress of Nurses, convened by the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, opened at the Church House, Westminster on Tuesday, July 20th. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President of the Council, presided, and before the proceedings began, Miss Kelly, President of the Irish Nurses' Association, on its behalf presented Mrs. Fenwick with a beautiful bouquet of pink carnations, asparagus fern, and shamrock, and in doing so spoke as follows:—

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, may I be permitted to present you with this bouquet? I cannot tell you how much we owe to you, how much the rest of the world owes to you. Here we have representatives from every part of the world to greet you and to help and thank you for all you have done in our service.

Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK, in accepting the gift of the Irish Nurses' Association, said: I have much pleasure in accepting this lovely bouquet from my Irish friends. The Irish nursing world is very well organised and is very progressive. They have their Matrons' Council and their Irish Nurses' Association, with its Ulster Branch, and they take a very active part in everything which affects their profession, and, therefore, the welfare of their patients. I thank the Irish representatives to-day very much for this beautiful bouquet. I will now call upon Miss Isla Stewart to open the Congress.

THE OPENING OF THE CONGRESS.

MISS ISLA STEWART: Madam President and ladies, to me has fallen the pleasant task of welcoming you here and opening this important, and, I may almost say, unique Congress, for I suppose that never before have so many nurses from so many nations met together to consider and discuss the highest interests of the profession. To those from our Colonies and dependencies I give a heartfelt welcome to the tight little island, the birthplace of our forefathers. To those of you who are of our blood but not of our flag, our American cousins, and to those of you who are neither of our blood nor of our flag, I also give cordial fraternal greeting, as I know you are one with us in the interest we have in that great profession of which we are members.

It was in 1899, when the Women's Congress was being held in London, and there were nurses present from America, Canada, and Australia, and from Denmark and Holland, that Mrs. Bedford Fenwick proposed we should institute an International Council of Nurses. The idea caught on, and I am very proud to say that it was in the Matron's house at St. Bartholomew's Hospital that the constitution was drawn up. Those of you who

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