VENI CREATOR SPIRITUS.

PARIS, SUNDAY, JULY 9th.

Religious Services, with special facilities for Congress members, were held on the morning of Sunday, July 9th. At the Metropolitan Church of Notre Dame there was High Mass at 11.15, and, at the Eglise de l'Etoile, a Protestant Service at 9 a.m.

It was indeed a high privilege, appreciated by many members of the Congress, as their attendance in Notre Dame at High Mass testified, to have the opportunity to "worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness" in this notable Church, so full of memories of the past, and instinct with the devotion of the present.

As the Holy Mysteries were celebrated with the splendour and solemn dignity of ceremonial which are reverent accompaniments befitting the great central act of Christian worship—splendid vestments, exquisite music superbly rendered, symbolical incense, and altar lights, many hearts were uplifted in thanksgiving and worship.

'Tis for Thee we bid the frontal its embroidered wealth enfold

'Tis for Thee we deck the reredos with the colours and the gold;

Thine the floral glow and fragrance, Thine the vestures' fair array,

Thine the starry lights that glitter where Thou dost Thy Light display.



Bearing the Wreath of Homage to the Arc de Triomphe.

Miss A. Lloyd Still. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick,
Miss M. E. Sparshott, Miss M. S. Cochrane, Miss E. M. M.

Mile. Chaptal.

Miss E. M. Musson.

Miss A. M. Bushby.

The Mass, which was under the Presidency of Sa Grandeur Monseigneur Chaptal, brother of our International President, and Auxiliary Bishop to His Eminence the Cardinal Verdier, Archbishop of Paris, was preceded by the hymn "Veni Creator Spiritus" to call down the Holy Spirit on the Congress, and it was an inspiring and moving moment when many hundreds of nurses, of diverse nations, impelled by a common purpose, united in solemn supplication to invoke the Divine guidance on their deliberations in their forthcoming meetings. M. Louis Vierne presided at the great organ, and as the hymn, to its lovely setting, proceeded, none present could fail to realise that, though faith may find expression in many ways, the bond of fundamental unity is a far-reaching influence whose power it is impossible to estimate.

'Tis to Thee the chant is lifted, 'tis to Thee the heads are bowed;

Far less deep was Israel's rapture when the glory filled the cloud.

O our own true God Incarnate what should Christians' Ritual be,

But a voice to utter somewhat of their pride and joy in Thec.

The Pontifical Benediction, given by Monseigneur Chaptal, the last act in a memorable and magnificent service, descended on the kneeling congregation, throughout which concord reigned, bringing strength, comfort and refreshment.

It was indeed a remarkable occasion which will ever be enshrined in the hearts of the privileged participants as a holy and fragrant memory. previous page next page