

Nursing Masque and Pageant.

Some weeks ago we announced that the Masque would be written by Miss Mollett, and we ventured to say the work would be finely done; but frankly we did not anticipate that it would be quite as good as it is. In our opinion the heroic prose in which Miss Mollett has presented the *motif* of the Masque and Petitions is as vigorous a bit of English literature as we have read for many a day. It is so fine that it is intended to produce a "Book of the Words" as well as a Programme for February 18th, so that those present may fully enjoy its sonorous periods.

Great progress has been made during the past week with all the arrangements for the Reunion, and we know it will be a pleasant bit of news that we are to have the support of several young medical men, who have most kindly consented to impersonate a few of the most important male nursing pioneers. In the Procession of Nursing Orders will be found a Chevalier de l'Ordre de St. Lazarus, the Grand Maitre de l'Ordre de St. Jean de Jerusalem, a Teutonic Knight, Brothers of Pity, St. Vincent de Paul, and a Physician in a Plague Costume. These are all very effective dresses and will add greatly to the interest of Procession 2.

Procession 2 is now practically complete. Many lovely people have been left out whom it would have been most interesting to represent, but the truth is that so much interest has been aroused in this novel Pageant that had all been included we should have had no room for spectators. Amongst the saintly people included in this procession are Agamedé the fair-haired, "who knew all drugs so many as the wide earth nourisheth," as a hint that *Materia Medica* should find a place in every nursing curriculum, Phœbe of Cenchrea, the Empress Helena, Marcella and Fabiola, St. Hilda of Whitby, Queen Matilda, an Abbess in her patrician robes, a Sister of St. John of Jerusalem, Philippa of Hainault, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, St. Catherine of Sienna, a Béguine of Flanders, Sisters of St. Martha, of St. Esprit, of St. Vincent de Paul, Jeanne Mance of Canada, St. Bridget of Kildare, Frederika Fliedner and her two Swabian Probationers, and Elizabeth Fry. This procession ends with a beautiful purple banner on which is simply inscribed the name, "Florence Nightingale," the bearers of which will be nurses trained at St. Thomas' Hospital, preceded by a nurse in the simplest of white linen gowns (also trained at St. Thomas'), carrying the Lamp in one hand and

holding the scroll of Nursing Law in the other.

The Matrons' Council Procession (Education) will be headed by bannerettes inscribed "Isla Stewart" and "Isabel Hampton Robb," and in Procession 4 (Nursing and the Community) each of the sixteen affiliated Nurses' Leagues and Societies will head the procession with distinctive bannerettes, and it will end with a section demonstrating the number of State Departments of which trained nursing forms an important part, and here the splendid services to the State of Agnes Jones at Brownlow Hill Infirmary, Liverpool, and of Catherine Loch, R.R.C., the organiser of the Indian Army Nursing Service, will be suitably recorded. Everything points to the Registration Reunion being a wonderful success, and indeed, with the loyal support of so many friends success was assured from the first. Our devoted workers cannot afford to be absent from this great demonstration in support of the cause for which they have toiled so loyally for so many years. It will be a great and happy gathering, and should do much to prove to the intolerant persons who persistently oppose freedom of action upon the part of nurses that their tactics of intimidation cannot damp our ardour.

It goes without saying that the same intolerable interference with the liberty of trained nurses, which has proved so futile in the past, is actively at work. Pressure is being brought by advertisers on venal publications; the lay nursing press, with coarse and unworthy invective or feeble bleating, is, of course, "crying in the wilderness." Its opposition to a Nursing Pageant is a mere sham. It is the Reunion of Registrationists which must be depreciated at all costs.

"The massacre of St. Bartholomew's" was designed to suppress the Registration movement once and for all! The "Nursing Popes" are therefore mightily flustered and correspondingly abusive, that having held an *auto da fé* in historic Smithfield, the scene of so many martyrdoms, the heterodox have still the courage of their opinions.

A LIVING HISTORY OF NURSING.

To turn from the contemptible attitude of intolerance towards nurses of many of their employers at home to the more generous feeling abroad is a relief.

Sister Agnes Karll, the President of the International Council of Nurses, writes from Berlin:—

"But how about your Masque? I am im-

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