

The Nursing Masque.

A large number of the 200 performers, required for the pageant on the Evolution of Trained Nursing, have already volunteered to take part in this interesting event, and every day its possibilities seem to grow. To present this subject in detail would require the participation of 500 persons, and a year's preparation. The processions in preparation for February 18th, will, however, give to the public a very good idea of the immense importance of trained nursing to every section of the community, and the devotion of the noble women who have tended suffering for centuries with little appreciation or recompense.

It won't do to tell too many secrets, but of the four Sections into which the Procession of Mortals will be divided, the first will bring us down to the middle of the 19th century; it will be led by Agamedé the Fairhaired, mentioned in the Iliad, "who knew all drugs so many as the wide earth nourisheth," and will end with the great Elizabeth Fry, between whom will come the most celebrated of those innumerable great hearted saintly women who by their compassion sweetened every century. It is much to be regretted that with so little time at its disposal the Committee find it impossible to include in this procession the Military Knights, Templars, Teutonic, and of St. Lazarus, but the Brothers of Pity we must have. Sections 2, 3, and 4 will be headed by distinctive banners inscribed "Education," "Nursing and the Community," and "State Registration," and Miss F. Sleigh has this work in hand. The three Petitions will briefly touch on the education, practical work, and right to legal status of trained nurses.

We have received letters warmly approving of the scheme of the Masque, but suggesting that it would be more generally popular if Legislation for Trained Nurses were not alluded to. But as the primary motive of the Reunion is to publicly support and demonstrate the urgent demand for Legislation, with the resulting organisation of trained nursing by the State, the suggestion does not appeal to us. We don't want this Masque to be a bit more popular than it already promises to be. What we want, and feel sure will happen, is that the magnificent rooms will be crowded out, and if registrationists are true to their colours, they will soon dispose of those 700 tickets we want to turn into golden sovereigns for the good of the cause. Nurses have contributed thousands of pounds, to say nothing of labour and health, to further this great reform during the past quarter of a century, and it

is high time the public, who will benefit so enormously from a disciplined profession of nursing, should shoulder a bit of the financial burden. Yes, those tickets when ready must just go off like hot cakes!

CONSULTATIONS.

Members of the Committee will be found at 431, Oxford Street, every Thursday, from 11.30 a.m. to 7 p.m. during December for consultative purposes by those taking part in the Masque, as every detail of the Masque must be ready to the last pin by the 1st of February.

League News.

THE SCHOOL NURSES' LEAGUE.



A meeting of the School Nurses' League was held on December 1st, in the Library of the Education Office, L.C.C., London, W.C. Miss H. L. Pearse, the President, was in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, Miss Pearse asked Miss Layton, the Secretary of the Benevolent Fund, to read the financial report of the dance held on November 11th. The report showed a balance of £2 15s., which was credited to the Benevolent Fund, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded Miss Layton and those who assisted her, for the admirable way in which everything in connection with the dance had been arranged. The President reported a communication from Miss Cave, the Hon. Secretary of "The Nurses' Memorial to King Edward," asking her to collect subscriptions from the school nurses for the memorial.

Discussion ensued, and a resolution was agreed to expressing the opinion that those present did not consider that the committee was representative of nurses—that a widely advertised public meeting should have been held—to permit an expression of opinion by thousands of nurses working independently of hospitals, before a scheme was adopted, and that it should be made quite clear if the scheme before the meeting was a Pension Fund Memorial, or really a Nurses' National Memorial, if the latter, it should not be connected with and managed by any institution whatever. Furthermore, the resolution expressed disapproval of the scheme selected.

Other questions of professional and social importance were discussed, before the termination of a very interesting meeting.

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