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Editorial.

THE SPIRIT OF THE PAGEANT.

No account of the Pageant on the Evolution of Trained Nursing would be complete without an attempt to give expression to the spirit which inspired all those who took part in it. The charm with which Miss Irene Fergusson played her part as Hygeia, the earnestness of Miss Cecilia Cecil, who entered so thoroughly into the Spirit of Nursing that she seemed its incarnation, and the skill of Miss Winifred Bridger as Science, were realised by everyone present. But in addition to the principal actors, the Pageant owes much to the large number of Matrons, Sisters and Nurses, as well as to the medical men, who took part in the procession, and demonstrated that the spirit of devotion to the sick is confined to no age, no country, and no creed, but that men and women of all ages have spent their lives in the service of their fellows.

To interpret this spirit, to honour the heroes and heroines of the past, to show what waste of life, and of service, result from lack of knowledge, and thus to demonstrate the justice of the demand for a uniform minimum educational standard for nurses, the attainment of which shall be followed by their registration by the State, was the task to which the National Council of Nurses set itself. And to this end everyone brought her best. Miss Mollett, her clever pen which produced a Masque of high literary merit, Miss F. Sleight, her exquisite needlework in fashioning many of the beautiful banners which formed so notable a part in the procession, and hundreds of others the best talents which they could lavish.

Everyone who saw the procession on Saturday last, at the Connaught Rooms, must have realised that a wealth of thought and work had been expended on the various details to bring it to the perfection attained, for perfection of detail was perhaps its chief note, nothing tawdry, nothing garish found place in it. Nurses were there to do honour to their profession, and they brought the best they had to give. It was this which so impressed those present, and the description of the Pageant by the *Daily News* as a "beautiful spectacle in aid of a cause," characterised by "dignity, picturesqueness, and an atmosphere of indefinable charm," probably voices the feeling of everyone in the Hall.

In addition, there was an underlying electric current of intense earnestness, which found outward expression when the banner "State Registration" was acclaimed with manifest depth of feeling. The Pageant should be as perfect as possible, because it was in support of a cause of supreme importance to the sick, of supreme importance to trained nurses. This was the spirit which impelled nurses to spare no pains to make it a success, what matter though they encountered opposition and misrepresentation in so doing.

For more than twenty years men who oppose the petition of nurses for registration have used similar weapons in their unworthy and unmanly opposition to the just demands of a body of women, whose services are indispensable to the community and the State, but they have failed, as they must fail, because they cannot realise that the conviction with which they are confronted eludes such methods, and that the inexorable law of evolution will prove their Nemesis.

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