

The Historic Pageant and Masque.

Trained nurses are proud of the traditions of their profession, and jealous of its honour, and they were therefore keenly appreciative of the proposal, that the Evolution of Trained Nursing should be demonstrated by a Pageant and Masque, in which their aspirations should be represented by beautiful imagery, and some of the principal characters of the past represented in living pictures. No better method could be adopted of informing the public now throughout the ages illustrious men and women have served the sick, and handed down to their successors traditions of devotion and heroism which cannot be excelled, and which must inspire every nurse worthy of her calling to combine with the greater knowledge of the present the rare courage and self-sacrifice characteristic of a long line of predecessors whom she must ever hold in honour. Moreover, the Pageant was designed to support the Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and on that ground alone commended itself to the more intelligent.

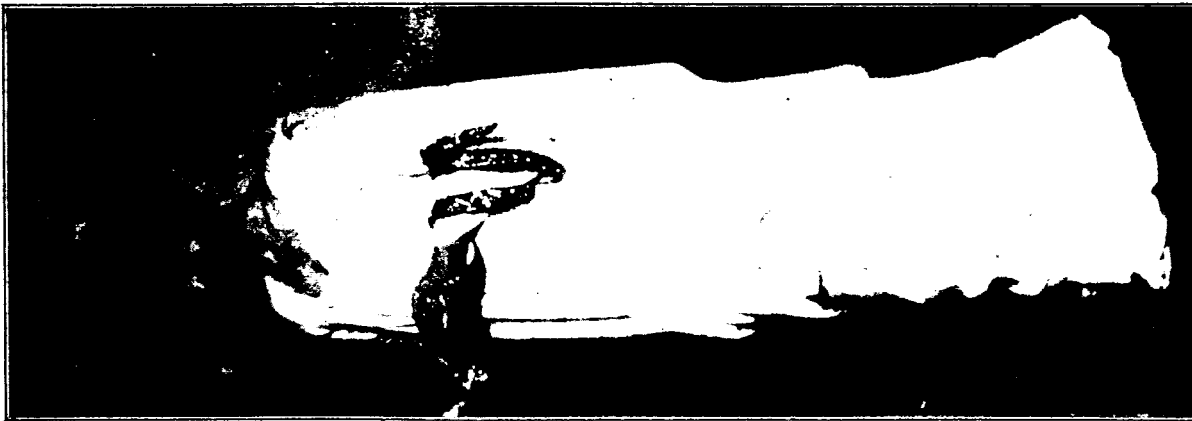
The Pageant and Masque took place on Saturday last, February 18th, in the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, W.C., and from beginning to end was an unqualified success—indeed, more than a success, a triumph. The Pageant was received by a Reception Committee, which included Lady Wynne, Mrs. Alec Tweedie, and the

in the vestibule at the head of the stairs leading to the Grand Hall. The Reception was announced for 8 o'clock, but an hour before that time the guests began to arrive, and they poured in continuously in a steady stream until the Hall was filled by an expectant audience of nearly 800 people.

At the further end of the Hall the stage was decorated with choice white flowers and green foliage was erected, on which was placed the throne of Hygeia, and expectation was at its height when the picturesque Master of Ceremonies announced:

"My Lords, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—Pray silence for the Pageant and Masque on the Evolution of Trained Nursing and the Right of Life to Health. Hygeia, Goddess of Health, will now lead the procession of Immortals."

Then the great doors at the end of the Hall were opened, and Hygeia, impersonated by Miss Irene Fergusson, appeared; a vision of loveliness in white archaic Greek draperies, her classical head and fair hair crowned by a wreath of golden laurels. Round her arm was twined a glittering green serpent, with ruby eyes, emblem of the wisdom of the healing art, and she carried in her golden bowl. As she moved slowly up the Hall, attended by the elements, Earth, Air, Fire, and Water, she appeared the incarnation of health, life, and beauty. After her came the Spirit of Nursing, Miss Cecilia Cecil, in soft pearl grey, with a galaxy of Attributes—a charming group, in the colours associated with their virtues. Every detail of their dress had been most carefully planned and the



Miss IRENE FERGUSSON, Hygeia, Goddess of Health.

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