

robe of brilliant rose colour, and an under-dress of black satin, her costume completed by a becoming cap and buckled shoes. She was attended by her Attributes, Truth, in palest blue, supported by Mental Purity and Moral Beauty in white and crystal, and Knowledge, in an academic robe of blue, supported by Observation, Diligence, Understanding, and Intellectual Discipline, all of whom wore academic robes and caps and blue stockings. When the Procession had entered the Hall the doors were closed, and Hygeia from the dais spoke the Prologue.

PROLOGUE.

"In obedience to infallible laws order issued from chaos, from confusion was brought forth organised life.

"The seething turmoil of elemental strife was stilled, and gave to mankind Earth and the fruits thereof, that all should eat their fill; Water, that all should drink and none should thirst; Fire, that none should miss light and warmth; Air, that all should breathe freely.

"If the children of the world pollute the pure elements, or withhold them from their offspring, and disobey the laws by which I, and they, and all the universe are bound, they break inexorable laws, and disease, deformity, and death are the inevitable punishment.

"Remember, O peoples! that those who sin against my laws sin against the laws of the universe that change not.

"Yet, throughout the ages, man, the eternal riddle, in his ceaseless quest for happiness and the fulfilment of his desires, breaks my laws and pays the penalty. By gluttony, filth, and greed, by sloth, ignorance, rapacity, and unchastity, he defiles the clean earth and his own clean body—pollutes the pure air and water, and shuts out the light and warmth of the sun. He breaks the great—the unanswerable law; he pays the penalty, and the people suffer.

"They suffer, ye know how they suffer, and how they have worn their knees and cried to the high heavens to release them from the result of their sins and their ignorance. And false prophets have lied to them: "Go to, it is your birthright to sin and suffer: none can deliver or help you. Dirt and disease, want and crime, neglect and deformity, ignorance and brutality; these have ever been, and ever shall be, the fruits of the earth. Go to—ye ask too much of life."

"And man hearkened to the false prophets. He slew with a sharp sword; he huddled together on the earth till it was foul and noisome; he crowded in cramped close towns in narrow streets, in dwellings shut to the air of heaven,

where the sun could hardly penetrate; he polluted with sewage and garbage the fair pure water, and when earth, air, and water were foul he died of pestilence that bred in filth—he died of the wound that festered; he died because the untilled earth bore no fruits, he died because the water bore him disease from afar, and he said: "It is the will of the gods, I have done nought amiss; they slay because they are an angered." And he died, and he dies, like a child in the dark.

"But, as he fell, there were surely those who aided and succoured him, who fought, as best they might, with the ill man's folly and ignorance had caused."

Turning to the Spirit of Nursing, the Goddess commanded: "Tell me, O Spirit! what didst thou, when thou heardest the wailing of those that suffered?"

THE REPLY OF THE SPIRIT OF NURSING.

In a voice vibrating with emotion, the Spirit of Nursing replied:

"I wept for pity, and I strove to ease where I might not mend; where they cried for me I went—no dungeon was too dark, no lazar house too noisome, no battle field too terrible. I bound the wounds that festered; I washed the sores that would not heal; I spoke gentle words and ministered to the plague stricken multitude, nor knew that the hem of my garment bore death. Water I carried to those athirst with fever, nor knew that the source was polluted; milk tainted with disease I gave to wailing babes, and none told me I erred. I served the sick and suffering kneeling; I gave my life and yearned over them as a mother over her babe. But I blundered and stumbled and none set my feet in the right path. Oh, Mother! my children were grievously stricken and my help stayed them but little."

But Hygeia comforted the sorrowing Spirit: "Grieve not, my daughter; well and truly hast thou played thy part, let none count as thy crime the ignorance that was no fault of thine."

Turning to Science, she asked: "Tell me, bold Spirit, what canst thou do? Counsel thou thy sister."

THE REPLY OF SCIENCE.

Eagerly Science replied:

"'Tis I can aid her, Goddess; what she lacks I have. I may not own her gentle voice and tone; I cannot weep for pity, and the cry of suffering multitudes does not tear my heart.

"But I can reveal the germ that festers the wound, and teach how it may be killed, that the wound may heal true and clean. I can

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