

the Spirit of Nursing and Science, was well merited, for each played her part with distinction and charm, and made the Masque a living thing, the memory of which is to be cherished with thanksgiving.

When the Procession had passed, Lord Ampthill, gauging the feeling of the audience, called for three cheers first for Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, and then for Miss Mollett, and, right heartily they were given, and then the Pageant was over, but a very enjoyable part of the evening remained in the meetings which took place between old friends, some of whom had not met for over twenty years, but who then as now were enrolled under the Registration banner.

#### THE DRESSES OF THE PAGEANT.

Where all the dresses were so well designed, and so beautifully executed, it is difficult to single out any for special notice. Agamedé, in her classical Greek robe, with her beautiful hair unbound, falling below her waist, and encircled with a golden fillet, was deservedly admired; the simple white deaconess' robe of Phoebe of Cenchrea was most becoming and correct; the Empress Helena, regal in a golden robe, and white silk cloak, embroidered in gold, wearing a white veil, surmounted by a jewelled crown, and carrying a large cross, was a regal figure. Marcella, in a purple robe, with draperies of gold and rose coloured tissue, tiara of jewels, a serpent necklace, and gold bracelet of Roman design, looked every inch the Roman patrician matron. St. Bridget of Kildare wore a grey Franciscan habit, forehead band, cap and wimple, and black veil, lined with white. She carried a scroll of the Gospels, which she taught to the Irish, and a model of the Abbey which she built.

St. Hilda of Whitby, a noble figure, was in the black habit of a Benedictine, with cap and wimple. She wore her royal robe of emerald green lined with rose colour, and ermine cape, and carried her pastoral staff as Abbess.

The group of men who took part in the Pageant added greatly to its distinction. The Grand Master of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, in black habit, and black velvet hat, was greatly admired, and the Pageant would have been very incomplete without Rahere in the white habit and cowl of the Augustinian Order. Queen Matilda was regal in mauve grey velvet, emblazoned with golden fleur de lys, and wearing a jewelled crown, the Sister of St. Martha in her quaint blue habit and white veil, and the Sister of St. Esprit wearing the double cross of her Order, had carried out their costumes faithfully in every detail. St. Elizabeth of Hungary was in

white silk beautifully embroidered in gold, her hair being braided in two long plaits and surmounted by a veil and pointed crown. She carried the emblematic red and white roses of Paradise in her Royal blue robe.

The Augustinian Sister, in a white habit and scapula, forehead band, kerchief, and barrette, and black veil lined with white, might have walked straight out of her convent. One of the most gorgeous figures was Philippa of Hainault in a petticoat of pink brocade, over which she wore an ermine trimmed velvet tabard, emblazoned with a crown, lions and unicorns, and jewelled headdress, a gorgeous dress, worthy of the great Queen, correct in every detail. St. Catherine of Siena wore the white habit and black veil of the Dominican Order, surmounted by a crown of thorns, and carried the lilies always associated with her, bound to a cross. The Plague Attendant in costume of Levantine leather, and headdress with crystal eyes inset, the long nose filled with aromatic drugs to ward off infection, was a notable figure, and one of the most beautiful dresses was that of the Abbess of Royal birth in a regal robe of cerise satin brocade embroidered with gold, a purple train lined with white satin, a magnificent jewelled cross, and a white veil on her head.

The Knight of St. Lazarus in armour was a splendid figure, and looked as if his sword would be at the disposal of every good cause needing his aid. The Brother of Pity in the red habit worn by the Order until the fifteenth century was a figure which could not be omitted from any Nursing Pageant, nor could St. Vincent de Paul, in his Franciscan habit, friend of prisoners, of foundlings, and of Kings. The Sister of St. Vincent de Paul was distinguished by a fine rosary, while Jeanne Mance was quite perfect even to her curls, reminiscent of the time of the Stuarts. A sweeter Friederike Fliedner, in dark blue spotted print, with white frilled apron and cap, could not be imagined, and Elizabeth Fry in dove-coloured satin, soft muslin fichu and sleeves, and Quaker mob cap was perfect. No pains had been spared by anyone taking part to make the presentment of the character personated in every way worthy and dignified, and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and Miss Mollett expressed themselves as deeply appreciative of the help and co-operation of everyone concerned.

#### THE BANNERS.

One result of the Pageant is that every League of Nurses affiliated to the National Council of Nurses will henceforth have its own banner, in many instances a most beautiful one. One of the most lovely was that of the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)