

and suggestive spectacle. The procession of nurses embraced representatives of every branch of the profession, including those attached to the Services and Government Departments, County Councils, and Poor Law Authorities. The section devoted to Lay Nurses of the Past was, perhaps, the most effective picture of all to furnish a contrast, for it included Sairey Gamp and Betsy Prig. The plea for the State control and recognition of the nursing profession was well sustained in the lines spoken by some of the characters."

The Daily News.—"Dignity, picturesqueness, and an atmosphere of indefinable charm characterised the 'Pageant and Masque of Trained Nursing,' held on Saturday night at the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street. The latest plan adopted by the nurses for interesting public opinion in the Bill now before Parliament for their State Registration was at once attractive and effective. Here is the theme, remarkable for its simplicity, of this propaganda play. Hygeia, the goddess of Health, receives petitions successively from the saintly women of the past and the hospital matrons of the present day. Draped in a snow-white robe of state, her hair bound in a circlet of gold oak leaves, tall, fair, and of statuesque beauty, Miss Irene Fergusson looked verily the incarnation of the goddess, the central figure in the Pageant. Round her, clad in long, trailing veils of silver grey, stood the Spirit of Nursing, 'Science'—in red and black—and various allegorical personages representing the elements and the attributes of nursing, such as Compassion, Courage, and Devotion. The groups were admirably arranged, the colour scheme of the dresses and the severe simplicity of the setting revealing the hand of a scenic artist of taste and skill. . . . The spectacle wound up with a procession of the nurses of to-day—missionaries in native Indian, and Chinese dresses, hospital, school, and district nurses, Navy and Army sisters, and other representatives of the great army of women living the 'nobly-planned life.'"

The Daily Telegraph.—"A large company assembled in the Connaught Rooms on Saturday evening was brought face to face with an illustration of the manner in which pageantry can be effectively utilised for purposes of educational propaganda. . . . To this end there was presented an interesting 'Pageant and Masque on the Evolution of Trained Nursing and the Right of Life to Health.'

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This was obviously a comprehensive theme, but in the hands of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, who designed the affair, and of Miss M. Mollett, who supplied the words, it was so concisely treated that the Pageant was brought within the playing compass of about three-quarters of an hour. Even if the Masque consisted to a considerable extent of a march-past of centuries, of personages, and of methods, it was well thought out; and at its close, the company, largely composed of nurses though it was, doubtless learned much about the history and development of nursing that they knew not before. . . . Of the various denominations of nurses, past and present, who figured in this part of the Pageant, none seemed to attract greater attention than Sarah Gamp, with her bulky and venerable umbrella, and Betsy Prig, her 'frequent pardner.' These two, excellently made up, might have stepped straight out of Cruickshank's studio, and, playing their parts splendidly, provided the audience with an extremely agreeable diversion. In the fifth and last section of the pageant was symbolised the 'application' of all that had gone before—namely, the demand for State registration. To all the appeals made to her, Hygeia, of course, lent a ready and sympathetic ear, 'in proof whereof,' straightway placing the hand of the Spirit of Nursing in that of Science, she bade the twain go forth to 'fight the noblest fight man ever waged.' The success of the Pageant was unquestionable, as the frequent and prolonged applause of the company clearly demonstrated."

The Standard.—"The idea of the Pageant was a very simple one, but the care which had evidently been lavished on the details made it wonderfully effective. . . . For the nurses, Miss R. Cox-Davies was the petitioner. This part of the procession, consisting as it did of nurses from all parts of the Empire, from India and China, from the prisons and the Army, was as effective in its display of harmonious colour as any part of the Pageant. It even rivalled the historical procession which had passed before."

The Daily Chronicle.—"Miss M. Mollett, in presenting a petition on nursing education, said the great battle that mankind waged against disease and death must find the nurse well equipped to take her share. In a passage referring to State Registration the petitioner said she voiced the rights of those who had fought battles against disease through good and evil days, often with poor and blunted swords, but ever with courage."



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