

Two Striking Personalities in the Nursing Pageant.

MARCELLA.

Two most striking personalities in the Nursing Pageant were Marcella, represented by Miss Elma Smith, Matron of the Central London Sick Asylum, Colindale Avenue, Hendon, and Queen Philippa of Hainault, so successfully personated by Mrs. Manson.

Marcella's history as told for us in "A History of Nursing" by Miss Nutting and Miss Dock, is the record of a distinguished and honourable life closing in tragedy. Marcella, who lived in the fourth century, was one of a "noble group of Roman Matrons, whose distinguished positions as descendants of the oldest and most patriotic Roman families, and whose learning and personal gifts of character, with the great deeds that they wrought in establishing Christianity, founding hospitals and convents, and forwarding education, have placed them high in the list of great women." The names and histories of Marcella, Paula, and some thirteen other notable women have been preserved in the writings of St. Jerome. "Their independent positions and great wealth (for they were of those who, under the free mar-

riage contract, preserved their legal and personal dignity) were wholly utilised to establish community life, and to organise large foundations for charitable and nursing work. Marcella was the chief and leader of this group of notable women. Her palace was on the Aventine, in the most exclusive part of Rome, and not long ago Lanciani stood on the recently

excavated site of the garden which once surrounded it, and recalled her tragic story. The accounts she had heard of the monastic life, far from repelling, attracted her strongly. Full of zeal, she turned her palace into a monastery, thus introducing the first example of monastic life in Rome. She was deeply learned, and when she became acquainted with Jerome he wrote 'All that I have learned with great study and long meditation she learned also, but with great facility, and without giving up any of her other occupations, or neglecting any of her pursuits.' Jerome, in one of his letters describes her life, her intellectual ability and her death. "How much virtue and ability," he



Miss ELMA SMITH,
Marcella.

writes, 'how much holiness and purity I found in her I am afraid to say.' She was often consulted by priests and bishops about obscure points in the Scriptures, and excited their admiration by the acuteness of her judgment. During the sack of Rome Mar-

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