

THE SOCIAL FUNCTIONS.

THE RECEPTION AT THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

The first of the Social Functions which were so delightful a feature of the Nursing Conference was the Reception given by the members of the Irish Nurses Association at the Royal College of Surgeons (by kind permission of the Council) on the evening of Tuesday, June 3rd. The guests were received, on behalf of the Irish Nurses Association, by its Vice-President, Miss Butler, Miss Shuter and Miss O'Flynn, and other Matrons, escorted their English and Scotch colleagues up the fine Hall, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, being conducted to the chair of Daniel O'Connell, a treasured possession of the College, used on special occasions. The procession was in the following order:—Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and Miss Huxley, Lady Hermione Blackwood and Miss Ramsden, the Hon. Albinia Brodrick and Miss Cunningham, Mrs. Dickie and Miss Joy, Miss Musson and Miss Keating, Miss Wright and Miss West, Mrs. Strong and Miss Hughes, Dr. Barrie Lambert and Miss Hogg, Dr. Marion Andrews and Miss Hutchinson, Miss Thurstan and Miss Sutton, Mrs. Stewart and Miss Despard, Miss Johnston and Miss Sampson. In addition to the large number of nurses present, many prominent and distinguished people attended, and the scene was a brilliant one, the Hall being filled to its utmost capacity.

A message was received from the Viceregal Lodge on behalf of the Lord Lieutenant and the Countess of Aberdeen, stating that Their Excellencies felt much interest in the Nursing Conference, and would gladly do anything in their power to promote the interest and success of the proceedings. It was a great disappointment to Lady Aberdeen that, owing to the fact that the French Division of the International Council of Women of which Her Excellency is President, was holding a series of business meetings in Paris that week, she was unable to be present. Their Excellencies most kindly intimated that the grounds of the Viceregal Lodge would be open for visits by the members of the Conference and their friends.

Delightful music was provided during the Reception by Mr. Clarke Barry's Instrumental Quartette.

PAGEANT OF NURSING.

The special feature of the evening was the Pageant of Nursing, adapted from the Pageant and Masque of the "Evolution of Trained Nursing," by permission of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, its author and designer. Anticipation was at its height as the trumpets announced the approach of the Procession and a herald proclaimed:—

"My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen, I pray your silence for the Pageant of the Evolution of Trained Nursing, and the Right of Life to Health. Hygeia, Goddess of Health, will now lead the procession of Immortals."

Then entered Hygeia, radiant and gracious, followed by her attendants: Fire (Miss Campbell), in a flame-coloured robe; Air (Miss M. Moran), diaphanous and ethereal; Earth (Miss Moran), bearing the fruits of the earth; and water (Miss Porter), with characteristic trident. Ascending the Dais, Hygeia (Miss Story) addressed these words to the guests assembled:

"Assembled Mortals: To those from far as well as those of our shores, we extend a warm and hearty greeting, a welcome to our festivities, and a wish for your enjoyment of them all. Here to-night we present to you a Pageant of Health, and Good Workers of past ages and of the present day. We call, therefore, upon the Immortals and Nursing Orders to approach, and we crave your gracious attention to their procession."

She then commanded:

"Trumpeters, summon the Immortals to approach."

The trumpeters thereupon sounded a fanfare and the Immortals approached the throne of Hygeia, making obeisance. They formed a beautiful and striking picture, poetically idealising the attributes of Nursing.

The part of the Spirit of Nursing was taken by Miss Eddison, her attributes being Endurance (Miss MacNamara), Courage (Miss Cryan), Sympathy (Miss Thompson), Devotion (Miss T. Macnamara), Patience (Miss Clanchy), Kindness (Miss Stannuel), Compassion (Miss Ovenden), Modesty (Miss Hely) Gentleness (Miss Wills).

Miss Holden, Matron of the Richmond Hospital, in academic gown and cap of scarlet, represented the Science of Nursing, and her two Attributes were Knowledge (Mrs. O'Hara Mease) and Truth (Miss Armstrong). Knowledge was supported by Observation (Miss Perry, B.A.), Diligence (Miss Colhoun, B.A.), Understanding (Miss Dudgeon), and Intellectual Discipline (Miss Coates). Truth had her own special attributes, Mental Purity (Miss V. Arnott) and Moral Beauty (Miss M. Arnott), robed in white.

All these grouped themselves most effectively round Hygeia, and then came the Procession of Sainly Women, and the Nursing Orders, beginning with Agamede the Fair-haired, down to a Territorial Nurse.

A character not represented in the London Pageant, and effectively introduced, was "Finn MacCool," the great chief of the Fianna, or Irish Militia, who instituted a band of trained nurses.

The beautiful banners of the Matrons' Council, the Irish Nurses' Association, the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, and other Leagues, brought the procession to an effective close.

By command of Hygeia, the trumpeters sounded the "disperse"; and the goddess then lead the procession of Immortals, Sainly Women and Nursing Orders through the assembled guests once more, and the Pageant was over.

The greatest credit is due to the organisers, Miss K. Patton and Miss Macnie, for the skill and hard work which must have gone to the production of so charming a result.

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