

THE TABLEAUX AT THE ABBEY THEATRE.

The Tableaux presented at the Abbey Theatre on the evening of June 4th in connection with the Nursing Conference, and organised as the Pageant on the previous night by Miss K. Patton and Miss Macnie, with Mr. James Stewart as stage manager, were beautifully arranged and staged, the grouping being most effective and charming.

His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant was present, as well as a large and distinguished audience, including many Matrons, Sisters and nurses from the Dublin Hospitals, and visitors to the Conference. The first tableau, with its three symbolical groups, was taken from Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's "Pageant of Nursing" and their presentation left nothing to be desired. Those nurses who were present will not soon forget the noble conception of their craft presented to them in these groups. The first, "Hygeia," surrounded by her attendants, "Earth," "Air," "Fire" and "Water"; the second, "The Spirit of Nursing," with her attributes; and the third, "The Science of Nursing," also with the same attributes and supporters, as on the previous evening, "Truth," held aloft her mirror in one hand, extending the other to "Mental Purity" and "Moral Beauty."

The next tableau represented Brigid of Erinn, who, with poetic license, was connected with St. Brigid of Kildare. Brigid of Erinn (who was represented by Miss Naish) was a goddess, poetess, and seeress, who had two sisters of that name, one the patroness of the healing art, represented by Mrs. D. Wilson, with her attendant nurses, and the other of smith-work (Miss MacCullum, with attendant smiths), the whole formed an impressive group.

Next to appear was Finn MacCool (effectively presented by Dr. Lyons) with his warriors and standard bearers and band of trained nurses, a historic character, whose humanity in making this provision is recorded by Miss Dock in "A History of Nursing." These nurses met the wounded warriors when they were carried out of camp, and took charge of them, so that they were restored to health by the skill of the physicians, and the care of the women, who "built them for battle once more."

The next tableau was a charming representation by Miss Dagg of Miss Florence Nightingale, lamp in hand, in the barrack ward at Scutari. Miss Dagg comprehended finely the austerity, graciousness, and culture of her heroine, and the tableau proved one of the most popular, and was specially referred to by the Lord Lieutenant in his speech to the members of the Conference next day.

Most effective was Miss Reeves' presentation of Mrs. Elizabeth Fry reading to the prisoners in Newgate, who were listening intently to the great humanitarian. The following tableau represented "Two of the Old School," Sairey Gamp and Betsy Prig, at the historic tea-party just before the quarrel about the mythical Mrs. Harris. Mrs. Manning made such an inimitable Sairey that

she was questioned by a small street boy as to what business she had going into Elpis late at night, and Mrs. William Taylor was a splendid Betsy.

St. Elizabeth of Hungary (Mrs. Charles Dickinson) made a tableau of rare beauty. She was depicted descending some steps and carrying a basket of provisions to a poor family under her cloak of royal purple with rose-coloured lining. Her husband the Langrave Louis drawing back the cloak discovers only a basket of red and white roses of Paradise, which have miraculously replaced the food.

"A Cure for Gout," played by Mr. Stamer O'Grady as patient and Miss V. Arnott as Ministering Angel was in lighter vein. The latter was shown removing the black bottle, the contents of which had caused the trouble, but the cure in the hands of the ministering angel is evidently acceptable.

In St. Hilda of Whitby and Caedmon we were once again confronted by the austere, and saw the Saint, who ruled over related monasteries of men and women, fostering the miraculously inspired genius of Caedmon, the Anglo-Saxon poet, who, under her care and guidance wrote metrical paraphrases of the book of Genesis.

The next tableau represented Mr. Luke Fildes' famous picture "The Doctor," the doctor being represented by Dr. MacConnell, the father by Dr. Fisher, the mother by Mrs. Gordon, and the child by Miss Jessica Gordon, and this concluded the series of extreme beauty, which alone were well worth taking the journey to Dublin to see.

Next appeared on the stage one by one some of those who took part in the Pageant at the College of Surgeons on the previous evening, in order to give those present an opportunity of viewing the costumes which were both charming and of great historic interest; and lastly the audience was amused by a one-act play by Miss Alice Maye Finny entitled "An Irish Stew," a delightful comedy, in which the scene was laid in an Irish Inn, the caste being: Mary Maguire, Miss Elsie Hughes; Tom Rooney, Mr. Henry; Miss Potter, Miss Story; Mrs. Rooney, Miss MacCallum; Mrs. Potter, Miss Norah Stack; Mr. Potter, Mr. O'Leary; and Mervyn Brown, Dr. Fisher.

The beautiful music supplied by Mr. Larchet's Orchestra added much to the evening's enjoyment.

THE GARDEN PARTY AT THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.

One of the pleasant functions arranged by the Irish Nurses' Association for the pleasure of their guests was a Garden Party in the beautiful Zoological Gardens in Phoenix Park on the afternoon of Thursday, June 5th. The Lord-Lieutenant honoured the Conference by being present at this gathering and taking tea with the members, and at His Excellency's desire some of their number were presented to him subsequently.

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