

as did Richard Wagner, the great composer, although he lived in an age long after that in which traces of the legend of the Holy Grail are to be found in Europe. Then there is another old-time story, often spoken of as "the Golden Legend," which tells how, when Adam was expelled from Paradise, he took with him three seeds of the Tree of Life; the legend goes on to relate that, when Adam died, Seth buried in his grave those seeds from the Garden of Paradise. From them, according to the legend, the tree grew from which the cross of the Saviour was made, so that it became the Tree of Life for mankind; and it was indeed in a deep spirit of mysticism that the festival of Adam and Eve was fixed for Christmas Eve. This old legend was found in many parts of Europe in the Middle Ages, but it is not until the sixteenth century that we find traces of the Christmas tree; it may be that this grew out of the legend as a presentment of the longing of mankind for the Tree of Life. But, in those days, a Christmas tree was very different from that we are accustomed to at the present time; now, it is more or less a means whereby we give material gifts to those we love, but on the Christmas tree, up to the early part of the eighteenth century, no such thing was thought of; then there were only burning or shining lights on the tree to symbolise the spirit of what it was intended to portray in the profound lessons of the Christ Mass.

In such ways did Christmas symbolism and custom grow; about them there is for us still a haunting suggestion of deep, underlying truths so that into this wealth of symbolism and this "mystery teaching" of long ago we are tempted to wander each Christmas time, drawn by the fragrance and beauty that we may sense with a kind of penetration that is something beyond the intellect and so to gather inspiration that will strengthen us for the severe tasks that the year must hold for all those who have chosen as their life-work the mission of carrying comfort and relief to the sick in mind or body.

CHRISTMAS DAY.

We shall be very glad if members, who propose to take their Christmas dinner at Headquarters, will give us notice beforehand of their intention. Several of our town members did so last year and we hope that they will again. This year we hear that quite a number of country members intend to come to spend Christmas at their Association's Headquarters, and this announcement from them has given us great pleasure.

We shall have tea at 4 p.m. on Christmas Day and dinner will be served at 6.45 to enable the Night Nurses to join us before they go on duty.

ENTERTAINMENT.

On Saturday, November 3rd, 1928, at the Rudolf Steiner Hall, Mr. Tom Lovegrove and his Company presented, with great success, the play "Interference." H.R.H. the Princess Arthur of Connaught, President of the Association, was graciously pleased to give her patronage to the entertainment. Permission to produce the play was very kindly granted by the authors (Messrs. Ronald Pertwee and Harold Dearden) and Mr. Barry O'Brien. The production was in aid of the Princess Christian Memorial Fund. As we go to press we have not yet heard what the result was, as regards its financial aspect, but those who were privileged to see the play all felt that they had spent a most enjoyable evening. Sir John Marlay was very ably played by Mr. Sydney Jones, and Miss Barbara Wood showed a most sympathetic understanding of the character of Faith Marlay and the difficulties which beset her. Where all were good, it is exceedingly difficult to select those whose work pleased us best, but the finished acting of Mr. Tom Lovegrove as Childers, the butler, Miss Margot le May as

Deborah Kane, Miss Evelyn Care as Barbara (niece of Sir John Marlay) and Mr. Fred Lovegrove as the young journalist, must have contributed to produce the applause which, from the hall, rounded up the close of each act. The amount of work involved to present the play must have been very great and we appreciate the kindness towards the Nurses which caused these friends of Miss Cattell to undertake this last of several entertainments which they have so ably given from time to time in support of one or other of our schemes.

RECENT GATHERINGS AT THE CLUB.

Miss Macdonald was "At Home" to Members and friends of the Association on Tuesday, November 6th, and she is very pleased indeed that so many were kind enough to accept her invitation. The Dance, which was held on Thursday, November 15th, was one of the largest we have had and ladies and gentlemen were present in very equal numbers, in fact, there were rather more of the latter and, as all appeared to be keen on dancing, those responsible for the arrangements found their task an easy one. On Thursday, November 22nd, Miss Macdonald gave a lecture on her visit to Rome, and we were fortunate in being able to secure over 150 beautiful slides of Rome and Florence, which, in themselves, provided the best description possible of the wonderful sights which we saw in the Eternal City and of that other city in Italy which is so rich in fine churches and galleries full of beautiful paintings. Miss Dorothy Graham very kindly lent for the occasion her fine lantern, and saved us the cost of an operator by throwing the views on the screen herself. The Sale, held on Tuesday, November 27th, was less successful than usual, but owing to the fact that we have been raising money for the purchase of 194, Queen's Gate, less energy had been put into the work of collecting gifts, as it was felt that everyone had done her utmost for the more important matter of seizing the opportunity to place the Association and its Club in their own building.

DONATIONS.

HOUSE BEAUTIFUL FUND.—Miss S. Sellers, £5; Miss Carson Rae, £1 1s.; Mrs. Northwood, Misses Anson, Ada F. Rockett, Swaby Smith, £1; Mrs. Hallam Botham (per Miss Jones), Miss C. A. Jackson, 10s.; Miss Pearse, 6s.; Misses Dickson. Flora Macdonald, 5s.; Misses Mary Bell, A. Giffen, Havers, 2s. 6d.

SETTLEMENT FUND.—Miss Alice Humphrey, £5; Miss F. G. Brown, 10s.; Misses Bickerton, H. A. Coombes, I. B. H. Shaw, E. M. Waing, 5s., Misses C. Clarke, H. A. Dean, M. Wooler, 2s. 6d., Miss M. Lamb, 2s., Miss E. M. Dickson, 1s. 6d., Misses Harsant, S. Sullivan, 1s.

GENERAL PURPOSES FUND.—Misses A. Banks, M. McLagan, A. F. Rockett, £1; Misses C. Bloomfield, S. Vian, 15s.; Misses R. L. Nevile, E. Strange, Esq., M.D., 10s. 6d.; Misses K. N. A. Royds, F. Whitney, 10s.; Miss A. M. Cheney, 7s. 8d.; Mrs. K. Earp, Mrs. R. Strong, Misses A. Bedwell, L. Brodie, M. Chitson, E. Clifford, L. W. Holford, M. S. James, A. Johnson, C. Orwin, I. B. H. Shaw, R. E. Titherington, 5s.; Mrs. J. Welch, 4s. 6d.; Misses M. Biss, J. C. Cowie, 4s.; Mrs. C. E. Haine, Misses M. Brown, G. Lord, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. M. Bates, Mrs. Ta Bois, Misses C. Clarke, A. M. Duncan, M. Lamb, J. Mountney, A. M. Parsons, 2s.; Miss A. M. Dorrell, 1s. 6d.; Mrs. E. Rowden, Misses L. E. Bassett, E. Dawson, A. Fincher B. Garner, J. Harbour, M. R. Helgesen, R. Jenkins, B. McDougall, M. Miller, R. M. Nattle, E. Osborne, F. L. Pettigrew, S. Siddons, E. J. Sims, S. H. P. Sullivan, M. Thorburn, A. F. Turner, E. Whitmore, 1s.; Miss M. A. Humphries, 6d.

ISABEL MACDONALD,

Secretary to the Corporation.

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