

matters concerning food, etc. At night all these 'helpers' sleep all over the floor if there is not room in the bed, and that is very often the case as whole families sometimes come in with one patient.

"There are five wards, an operating theatre maternity and administrative block, a pathological and pharmacy department, and oh yes, an out-patients' department. (One ward, the ulcer ward, is mixed.) The work is very varied and we have, it seems, all the English complaints such as Bronchitis, Pneumonia, Whooping Cough, Measles, etc., and of course all the Tropical Diseases mostly Worm Infections, Leprosy (we are in charge of a large Leper Camp across the river with 500 lepers, and as yet there is no Doctor or Nurse resident there), Amoebic Dysentery, and all kinds of Dysentery, but most of all we get the most awful ulcers because the people will not come to hospital until they are just unable to carry on any longer. I am afraid we get many deaths, too, because people do not come earlier, but of course in some cases it means days and days of travelling by foot or canoe so it is not always their fault. The chief Surgical complaints are Hernias and Hydroceles and there again they leave them until they get huge and our most common Emergency is a Strangulated Hernia, usually in the middle of the night and with only lamps and primuses, it is not like work at home. The women are getting better at coming for their confinements, even then they leave it until the last minute, and once at 2 a.m. a baby was born in our garden under the bedroom window!!! No sterility, no clothes, no water, just me in my dressing gown, the cord was around the neck too! Mother and baby did very well.

"We, the two White Nurses, are responsible for the patients and everything pertaining to them, linen, etc., as well as the training of the boys and girls, lectures, and the operating theatre and midwifery cases and we are always 'on call.'

"The two Doctors are responsible for the Medical and Surgical work and the teaching of the Pharmacy and Pathological parts; they are in charge of the workmen, because all the buildings and the Infirmiers' houses are built in brick, which is due to the wonderful work of those gone before us. They have also the financial and legal sides to deal with.

"The patients have Morning and Evening Prayers and a Sunday Service in each ward conducted by the Infirmiers who are in charge of the wards.

"It would be impossible to attempt to teach the natives anything without education, and until one can speak their language it is not easy to get to know what goes on in their minds. Some superstitions still remain, but they are slowly fading.

"There is no space to speak of other conditions, but may be I can write again with other sides of the life, when

we have been here longer and have been able to get a better all round view of things.

"With best wishes, yours sincerely,  
JOYCE D MOORE."

## Corpus Christi Play.

### THE FIRST PERFORMANCE FOR 350 YEARS!

IN THE PERFORMANCE of the Medieval Pageant and Drama by the Surrey Community Players, we realise that no small part of the Festival of Britain is in its delightful reminder of our native talent and characteristics as they were centuries ago, of times when the people in Merrie England received much of their religious and morality teaching from Corpus Christi plays "on wheels," when they were welcomed as the high lights of dramatic entertainment as they traversed the towns and countryside in the Middle Ages.

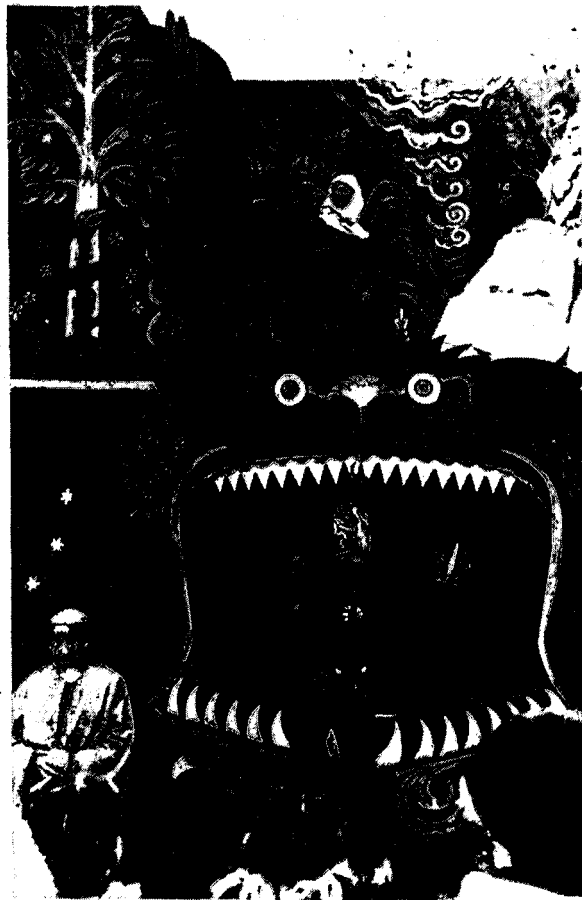
#### THE MYSTERY PLAY

In this year of grace 1951, what an arresting sight to many wayfarers to meet so unexpectedly in pretty old Quality Street, Merstham, a quaint company of players in old-world costume, and attendants in period dress, headed by a carter wearing medieval hood, leading a one-horse cart carrying a fine movable stage, beautifully ornamented with colourful scenes! Having enacted the first show of "The Creation" and "The Fall of Lucifer" the players, as of old, moved on, followed by some two hundred and fifty spectators, whose numbers greatly increased as the company halted to repeat the drama at each stage until the courtyard of Reigate Priory was reached.

In the perfect setting of this old Surrey hillside, radiant in Maytime verdure, by torchlight, the Community of Surrey Players—a company of students, artists, clerks and housewives—excelled in their final performance that day of "The Creation" and "The Fall of Lucifer"—as conceived by our medieval forefathers. Realistic indeed the jaws of Hell!; the Garden of Eden, in which Michael Knight spoke as Adam; and Edythe Evans,

with characteristic charm, represented fair Eve; with marvellous effect Dennis Coles, poised above the garden with his Angels as the white-haired God delivered with serene dignity the beautiful words of his creation. How profoundly impressive the players' inspiring interpretation of the spirit which held their audience enthralled and strangely moved by the atmosphere of this mystery!

We are especially happy in congratulating the producer—Mr. Francis Edwards (a well-known lecturer on English literature and the drama) on this original contribution to the Festival of Britain—the revival of one of the most famous Corpus Christi plays.



Corpus Christi Play.  
Medieval Pageant and Drama.

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