



Procession in the Greek Festival.

CLUB PAGEANT GAY FESTIVAL

Picturesque Groups and Gorgeous Costumes at Fifth Christmas Gathering of the MacDowell Club

The fifth annual Christmas festival of the MacDowell Club of New York, given at the Waldorf-Astoria on December 29, Edward MacDowell's birthday, proved that its reputation for arranging unusual and interesting indoor pageants has been well earned. It far exceeded in beauty of details and magnificence of decorative effects any that had been presented before.

The first two of these functions took place at the Berkeley Lyceum in 1907. They were comparatively simple affairs, consisting of miracle plays. Ben Greet offered his assistance in their stage management.

"They were given," says John Alexander, the artist, who is the president of the MacDowell Club, "with fear and trembling."

The proceeds were devoted to the establishment of a students' fund, which in its short existence, helped several promising pupils of the various arts.

The third year something more elaborate was attempted, and at the Hotel Waldorf-Astoria a series of Shakespearean episodes were presented, followed by a Christmas pageant, the authorship of which was modestly admitted by the then holder of the students' scholarship.

Last year a further step in advance was taken. All handicaps of tradition, time, expense and the amateur spirit were ignored. The spectators, who filled the grand ballroom at the Waldorf-Astoria, were surprised at the ambitious nature of the undertaking.

Mr. Alexander at the time, "was the year's pageant presented for the first time the idea of Edward MacDowell, which has been the inspiration of the club's growth, has been so successfully interpreted.

A great many people labor under the delusion that owing to its name, the club should stand for matters musical and nothing else, or that it does so. The inspiring idea I speak of was the brainchild of the late composer that somewhere in this big city a number of people could be brought together, all having the true artistic spirit but who might have sought different methods of expression, and that these people could lose by this companionship, the knowledge that comes from too close adherence to a single line of thought; that each should use his own phrasing, and there should be a correlation of the two.

The club was organized after his death by a number of his close friends and ardent admirers as a memorial to him, and it has grown to such proportions now that I wish this current understanding in regard to its purpose could be definitely done away with by the public mind. Throughout its history, even when it was in its lowly beginnings, that idea of Mr. MacDowell has been closely adhered to. No favoritism has been shown to any special branch of artistic work. The walls of the club rooms at 108 West Fifty-fifth street are hung from time to time with the canvases of the painter members.

At the same time, the members of craftwork take place. There are musical evenings, dramatic and literary affairs, and the expression of the harmonious gathering of the several arts takes place whenever the winter festival, which comes near Christmas Day, is presented by the club, an affair which has cost months of hard work and the sacrifice of so much of the leisure time that the individual celebration of the season is lost sight of by the more altruistic demands, which are the ultimate interpretation of the Christmas spirit after all.

As the pageants themselves have grown from the most simple beginnings into the most elaborate and costly events of the year, so the club fund has increased and has enabled the club to do more work in a year than was dreamed of.

Competitive examinations are held for candidates who are passed on by the several committees. Special privileges, the chief of which is a year's tuition abroad, and the best ones include vocal and instrumental lessons, with the use of the best instrument is desired, art and other helps.

The worthy feature of this association is the fact that in several instances where young people have profited by this financial proper, when prosperity has come they have looked upon the money as a loan, returned it, and by so doing have helped us to help others. To sum up the matter, I believe that any association that is organized through the strength of an ideal and held together by it must by the very

nature of things succeed, and the MacDowell Club's prosperity is a living witness of this faith.

Mrs. Ben All Haggin has since the inception of the winter festivals been a moving spirit of the organization and to her, say her fellow workers, is due a large percentage of the pageant's popularity and the financial success of these annual affairs. Last year Mrs. John Alexander, assisted by Mrs. Edward Sperry, took entire charge of the costuming, but this year the demands were too great and the groups were in consequence looked after by several aids.

Mrs. Alexander devoted her attention to the costuming of the Longfellow group, in which her sister, Mrs. Frederick Alexander, was Minnehaha and Mr. and Mrs. Heinrich Meyn were Gov. and Lady Wentworth in magnificent and appropriate costumes. She also looked after the costumes of the most artistic number of the programme, "The Star of Bethlehem." Mrs. Sperry costumed the Paul Veronese and Van Dyck quadrilles.

Each of the several divisions of the



A Van Dyck Group.



Group from the "Winter Feast of Nations".

programme was introduced and interpolated with appropriate music. The one began with the "Trumpet Call" from "Indian Suite" of Edward MacDowell, and the male chorus from "Geddepa Teranus," by J. K. Paine, sung in Greek by the choir of St. Paul's Church, led by Perry Averill. "The Star of Bethlehem" was introduced by a series of Christmas carols, ending with the "Dormi Jesus" of MacDowell.

The poets' and painters' quadrille was danced to a quaint old English melody which has been preserved with the dance it accompanied, "The Chelsea Reach." Other interesting selections were one by Brahms, selected by the Barones, the "Danse Grecque" for two flutes and harps, of Jules Massenet, the dance music composed and played by one of the new comers in the musical field, Miss Ethel Letinska, who made her musical debut here at the Bryn Mawr Club recently, and the "Improvisation on Norse Themes" by Sir Edmund Hurley, who assisted Mrs. James Whitman in the general arrangement of the musical numbers.

In the primitive spectacles, as nearly as possible, replicas of old instruments were used, and musical libraries were searched for appropriate compositions, many of which were resurrected from almost indelible, manuscript.

"If this indoor pageant stood for any special truth," said one of its promoters, "it is the expression of the modern spirit toward the history of the Christmas festival through the centuries and its precursors in the winter feasts of nations. There has been no attempt at literary interpretations, either in the way of costuming, stage setting, dancing, or in fact in any of the component parts. The whole aim of the spectacle was to keep away from a strict formalism.

The groups who represented the

painters did not produce any one period of art or any special picture, but they gave a general idea of the work of painters. The Titian group was arranged by Mrs. Evans Dick and the Galassborough by Mrs. Bauer. A great latitude of artistic license was not only allowed the producers, but was actually demanded in order to keep away from all academic rulings. John Alexander, who has staged and costumed so many society functions, has followed this idea with great success.

The Greek festival, comprising an aggregation of some twenty youths and maidens, bearing amphora cymbals and trumpets, was costumed under the direction of Prof. Young of Columbia University and arranged by Herbert Adams and Miss Elizabeth Averill.

In the later history of the Greeks, it said one of the managers of the spectacle, "the annual feast we know designated into an oray which flourished under the title of the Feast of Dionysus." We have taken an earlier period, where symbolism reigned and where the harmony of the Hellenic beauty of life had not degenerated into its mere physical expression.

Miss Hedwig Reicher was the priestess who lighted the sacred flame at the altar.

In "The Feast of Freya," a fragment of a masque written by William Norman Guthrie, actor of St. Mark's in the Boulevard, and arranged by William Laurel Harris, Robert Henri, D. Putnam Brinley and Maurice Fromke, a comedy element was introduced which

suggested a cross between Shakespearean and Rabelaisian humor. The antics of Louis Mora and Putnam Brinley with the Yule log, their costumes and makeup, suggested a serious contemplation of Cubist masterpieces.

In this spectacle Charles Colburn recited an ode which described the changes from the pagan festivals to those of the early Christian era. He summons the Spirit of Fire, who in the form of Valkyrie answers his bidding. The Valkyrie was impersonated by Miss Charlotte Gilder, and following her came Miss Ruth St. Denis in a dance composed for the MacDowell Festival and interpreting the changes that have taken place, as the bard had recited.

In the beginning Miss St. Denis, a graceful figure of gold-haired youth, danced with pagan abandon and is finally a crouching figure lost to sight under the gray veil which completely blots her out and typifies the end of the heathen regime. She rises again, taking a cerulean tulle, and dances as the resurrected spirit of Christianity, suggesting the birth of the spiritual age, which succeeded the material.

In the Celtic festival, "The Gathering of the Mistletoe," arranged by Mr. and Mrs. Langdon Geer and acted by members of the Comedy Club, the druids and druidesses in their white robes gathered about the primitive altar to cut the mistletoe, a task delegated by custom to the youngest virgin. It was a long step backward from the brilliantly lighted ballroom of a twentieth century hotel filled with a crowd of

people to the bare stones, the cold background and the simple robes of the priests and priestesses assembled to celebrate their faith, but it was one of the most interesting and impressive spectacles presented. Miss Ruth Davis, who cut the mistletoe, was assisted by Mrs. Geer and Miss Damrosch as attendants.

"The Star of Bethlehem," arranged by Mr. and Mrs. Alexander in its stage setting, duplicated the peculiar effects that Mr. Alexander has invented and used before in professional and social functions. The surface of a painting is suggested by his lighting, all idea that one "can get behind the picture" being destroyed by the gauze and velvet background, which absorbs the light. Here suggestion again took the part of reality. There was no Jesus visible, the usual wax figure being omitted, and the imagination of the spectator was called upon to visualize the Christ Child. The Virgin, Miss Louise Glynoux, was costumed in a red gown and blue veil with white folds about the face. Frank Jones was Joseph and others in the group were Ben All Haggin, Alpheus Geer, De Witt Parshall and the Messrs. Henderson.

The quadrilles comprised besides those already mentioned, "The Idylls of the King," "Canterbury Pilgrims" and "Don Quixote," "Saxon" and "Watteau" groups. A specially interesting feature was the Egyptian frieze arranged by Miss Belle Green and Charles Slayter, in which photographic accuracy and artistic composition were combined.

INCREASED USE OF HYPNOTISM

Dr. J. D. Quackenbos Tells of Its Great Value to Physicians and Its Help to Sufferers

WHEN the police of London, England, forcibly checked the activities of fortune tellers, crystal globe gazers and similar charlatans who prey on the credulity of men and women, as was told in a recent cablegram to THE SUN their action had indirectly an important bearing on the public health. As a result of the putting of the swindlers out of business the fact has been brought prominently to public attention that not only has the value of hypnotism and the treatment of patients by mental suggestion come to be better appreciated but also that many highly qualified physicians in England and elsewhere in Europe are making a specialty of psychic treatment. With the downfall of the charlatan fortune tellers and others of their type who have sought to make illegitimate use of hypnotism the number of reputable practitioners who have adopted mental suggestion is growing.

Certain physicians in the United States have for some time made use of mental

chemical conditions which are remediable. No disease is purely mental or purely physical. The advanced physician not only offers specific treatment to these subjects, but rights the chemistry of the body by removing the intestinal poisons that is so markedly responsible for these delusions.

"Hypnotism is specially applicable to the cure of phobias or fear, such as the fear of lightning, dust, crowds, solitude, the fear of responsibility, disease, of becoming deformed, of blushing, the fear of sleeplessness; the fear of dogs or rabies, to say nothing of continual impulses to strike some one, to strangle children, or to commit other crimes which are expressions of true psychasthenia or mental exhaustion.

"It is a peculiar thing that sometimes people with the best intentions in the world will often be haunted by imperative impulses to injure their neighbors or even their own children. These impulses are as a rule controlled, but seem simply to be an impulse to take a hatchet and kill some one. This impulse was so great that he was induced to keep away from hatchets, clubs or similar implements with which he might do harm were they in his sight.

"As an illustration, I had a patient who when business became unusually active, as for instance just before the holidays, was seized with an impulse to take a hatchet and kill some one. This impulse was so great that he was induced to keep away from hatchets, clubs or similar implements with which he might do harm were they in his sight.

"There is a distinct difference between this condition and the homicidal impulse of an insane person, for the neurotic will never do harm when observed, while the insane person is likely to carry out his homicidal impulse at any time. It is in such cases that mental suggestion affords the only relief.

"Psychic suggestion has been largely employed in the treatment of epilepsy. Hysterio-epilepsy, the hysterical counterfeits of epilepsy, is absolutely curable in my experience.

"Another disease that yields to mental suggestion supplemented by regular treatment is diabetes. The patient under hypnosis is urged to correct the perverted nervous function, so that first the starchy matter consumed as food shall be properly assimilated and second that sugar shall not be manufactured in the body to excess. Mental suggestions are added to counteract the appetite for sweets and excessive thirst. All my patients have been markedly benefited or entirely cured by hypnotic treatment, which I now give in connection with the Bulgarian bacillus. In my last case of this treatment the sugar dropped from 11% to 6 per cent.

"The Bulgarian bacillus, it may be explained, is the enemy of the bacteria that produce putrefaction in the intestines, and that are regarded as one cause of diabetes. It is so named because in Bulgaria 5,000 persons have been found who were more than 100 years of age and who were still healthy and active.

Investigation showed that their longevity was due to the fact that they lived largely on sour milk products. Therefore the characteristic bacillus of the sour milk has been naturally termed the Bulgarian bacillus. In all cases of diabetes remarkable gains in energy have followed the early treatments by psychic suggestion.

"In hay fever, again, mental suggestion destroys the irritability of the nasal mucous membrane. Its sensibility to irritating substances in the atmosphere controls the congestion, hyper-secretion, fulness of the head and asthma.

"Stammering and other speech defects are appropriate conditions for treatment by hypnotism, while pathological bashfulness or morbid self-consciousness, which by the way, is extremely common among public speakers, singers, actors and even business men and women, is readily cured by appropriate mental suggestion. In the treatment of such cases the sleeping subject or the person under hypnosis must be imbued with a feeling of equality, and all sense of inferiority in the presence of his fellow beings removed. He is made to see that the undervaluation of self is immoral because it subtracts from his efficiency or capacity for happiness.

"Mental suggestion, or hypnotism, whichever phrase you prefer, properly administered appeals to the God part of the person under treatment. That is the truth, and that, quite likely, is the secret of its great value and efficacy. This being so there can be no ground for objection to nor criticism of its use in healing the sick. It is an advanced step in the practice of medicine, and whatever benefits suffering mankind must in all justice be welcomed."

suggestion or hypnotism in their practice and they say, with distinct benefit to their patients. Dr. John D. Quackenbos, who is a professor emeritus of Columbia University and who for a number of years has lectured on psychology in and outside of the college, has used mental suggestion on hypnotized persons, or sleeping subjects, as he terms them, more than 10,000 times and always, he believes, with success in the cases of those suffering from physical as well as from mental disease.

"Very much interest has been created here as a result of THE SUN'S announcement from London of the activity of the police there against the dishonest users of hypnotism and by the stated statement that there is evidence of an increased use of mental suggestion by physicians in England and on the Continent," said Dr. Quackenbos. "This was only to be expected, for the value of such treatment has been demonstrated by such physicians of worldwide reputation as Dr. Lord-Toucey and Dr. Milne Bramwell of London, who are using this instrumentally to rescue the sick and mentally depressed with marked success; Dr. Farez and Dr. Berillon in Paris, who have a school of psychology, where public treatment is daily given; Dr. Grossman of Berlin, who some time ago attended the Congress of Russia, giving her psychic treatment; Prof. Froel in Zurich and Prof. Paul Dubois at Bern, Switzerland; Dr. von Velsen at Brussels, Belgium; Dr. von Schreck-Notzing at Munich, Germany; and Dr. von Renterghel and Dr. van Eeden at Amsterdam, Holland, all of them using mental suggestion in one form or another. In the United States such treatment is constantly increasing.

"As a matter of fact the greatest value of psychic treatment is in cases of neurasthenia, delusions and imperative conditions which are largely dependent on