

Press Notices.

THE ELECTRA OF SOPHOCLES.

ANOTHER PERFORMANCE OF GREEK TRAGEDY MEETS WITH SUCCESS—THE PICTURESQUE DANCES AND PRETTY MUSIC.

The interest in Greek drama, which the performance of the "Antigone" of Sophocles in the original aroused, proved sufficient to induce Mr. H. N. Shaw, B.A., to this year try a similar experiment, and last night the "Electra" of the noblest of Greek dramatist was produced. This latter performance was in English, and drew a good and fashionable audience at the Grand.

"Electra" is perhaps without the dramatic movement of "Antigone," but there were special reasons why it should have been chosen. The latter work, requiring the efforts of men throughout, was well adapted for performance by University students, but, as this year's performance was under the auspices of the Conservatory School of Elocution, most of the pupils of which are ladies, a work which would give them opportunities was necessary. "Electra," with its choruses of Argive maidens and priestesses of Artemis, filled the bill. Then, as it is the most lyrical of Greek tragedies, it also afforded special opportunities to the institution.

The story of "Electra" has been made known in these columns. Last night's production was notable. All the modern resources of the stage director had been used to develop it. Costuming and scenery were rich; the incidental music composed by Signor d'Auria proved to be pretty and suggestive, and treated according to the ancient oriental modes of composition. The dances designed to suggest the action of the play, were properly symbolic and picturesque. The modern system of Delsartean expression was used to the utmost degree. At every important juncture there were the sinuous movements of sixteen Argive maidens to express physically the train of action. Miss Kate Langdon Root was an exceedingly graceful leader of the dances. Mr. Shaw as Orestes was passionate and expressive. Mr. William Thorold, B.A., as Talthybius, was strong and sincere and distinguished himself in his account of the chariot race. The other roles were in competent hands. Miss Ethel Tyner, Miss Bertha Sargent, Mdme. d'Auria and Miss H. Ethel Shepherd were among those who added to the strength of the ensemble. The performance was preceded by a pretty rendering of the last act of "The Merchant of Venice."—*The Toronto World*.

No word less strong than "triumph" will describe the success of the "Electra" performance at the Grand last night. Down to the minutest detail the production was artistic and beautiful. Mr. Shaw, as Orestes, displayed rare histrionic talent, playing this difficult role with power and a full appreciation of its many points of strength. His remarkable nervous energy and grace make even his slightest actions expressive. Miss Matthews, a noble looking girl, made a splendid Electra. Miss Kate A. Beatty took the unpleasant part of Clytemnestra admirably, Miss Annie Hart made a pleasant Chrysothemis, and Mr. William Thorold, B.A., a perfectly satisfactory Talthybius. To Miss Kate Langdon Root special praise is due for her graceful dancing and posing as chorus leader. To the dancing and posing of the chorus too much praise cannot be given. The beauty of their costumes, in fact of all the costumes, was remarkable. Their work was probably the most graceful ever seen here.—*The Toronto Globe*.

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