

"REBECCA AT THE WELL"

Given at the Roseville Methodist Episcopal Church, Newark, New Jersey



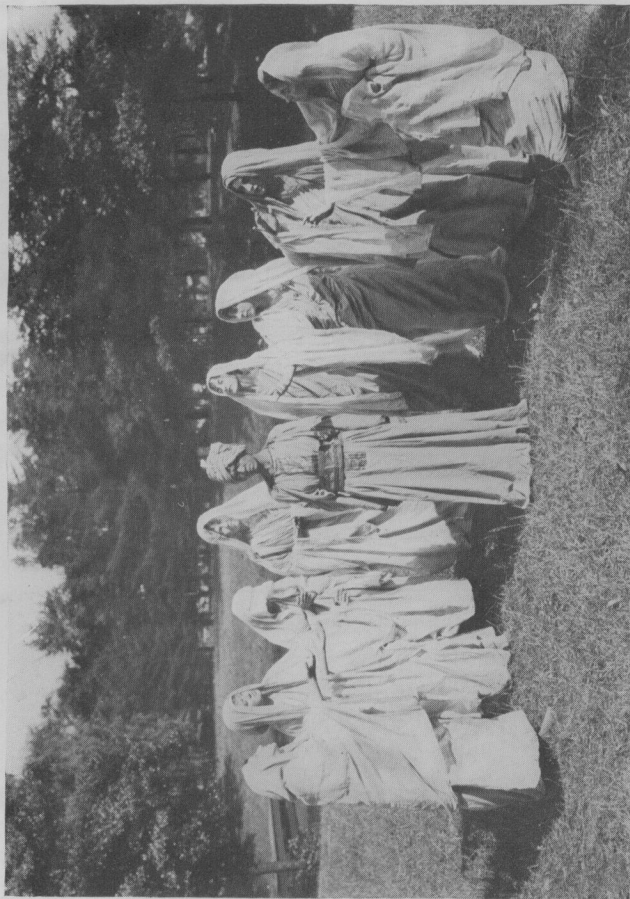
FIRST AID DRAMATIZATION



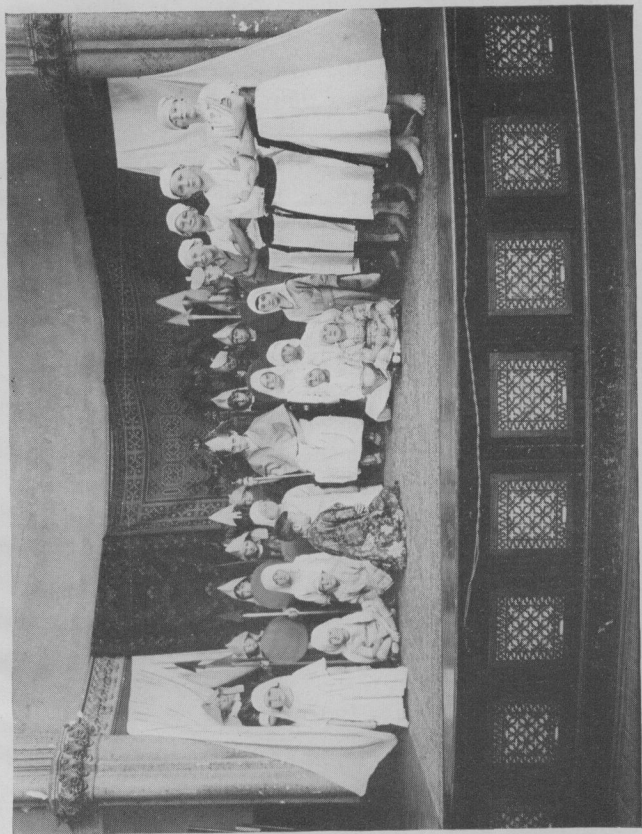
STORY PLAYING IN CHINESE COSTUME



BOTTLE DOLL PLAYER FOLK



SCENE FROM A MISSIONARY PAGEANT,
"SIDDARTHA AND THE EIGHT-FOLD PATH"



A SCENE FROM THE DRAMATIZATION OF
"DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN"



SCENE FROM PAGEANT, "THE WAYFARER"

The Abingdon Religious Education Texts

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Pageantry and Dramatics in Religious Education

BY

WILLIAM V. MEREDITH

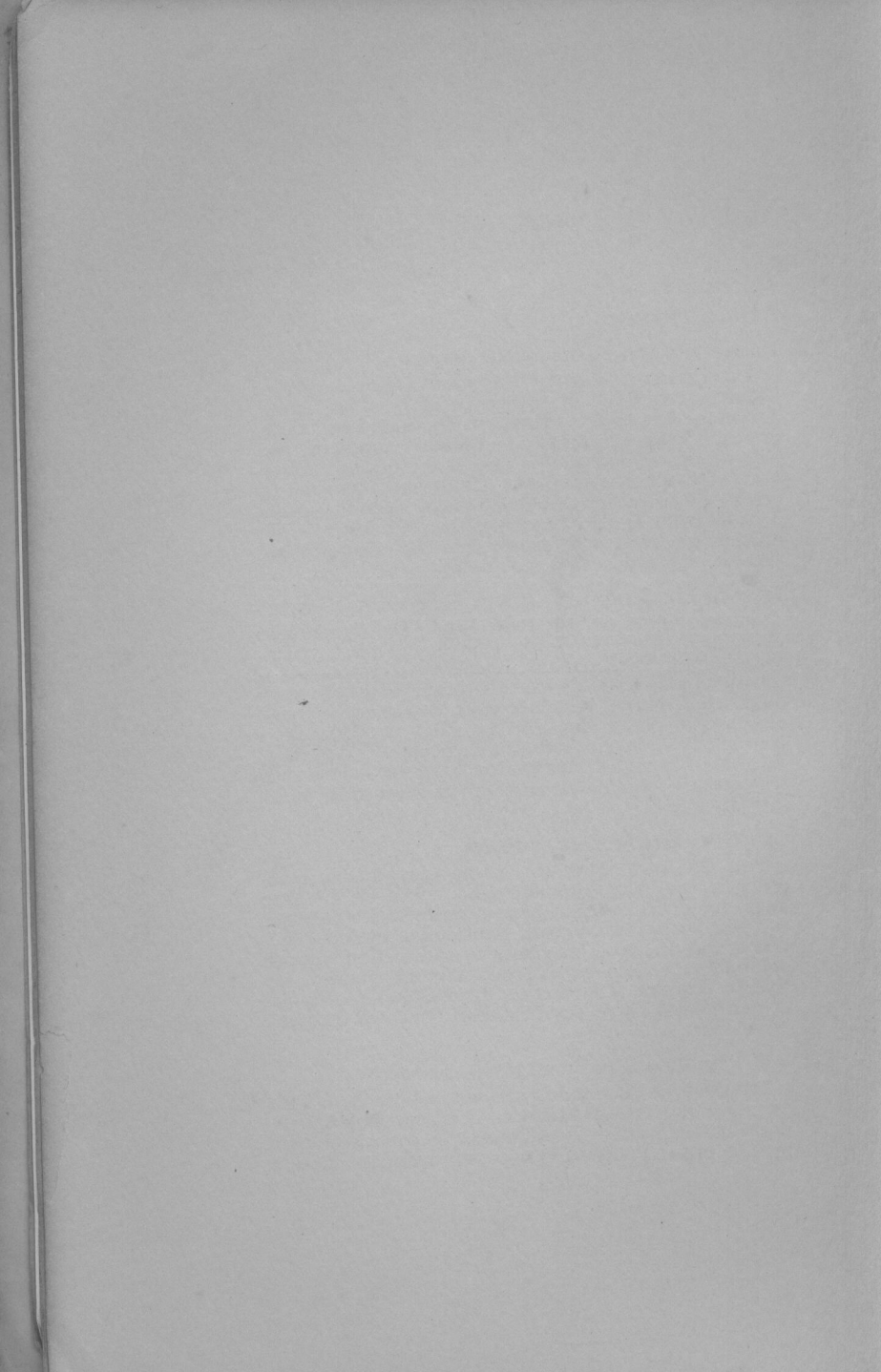


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DEDICATED TO MY FATHER AND
MOTHER, PIONEER MINISTERS OF
JESUS CHRIST IN NORTHWEST KANSAS



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EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

THERE are two questions that stand out clearly in the minds of religious leaders concerning the use of dramatics and pageantry in teaching religion. First, in view of the nature and meaning of religion, is there not a certain incongruity in their use for such a sacred purpose? Are these methods not more suited to the teaching of secular subjects?

If it can be shown that there is no impropriety in adopting them there remains a second question, namely, Can they be depended upon to conserve those spiritually dynamic elements which Christianity, evangelically interpreted, demands?

The answers to these two questions have been given in an unusually clear and comprehensive way by Mr. Meredith in the following pages. The first four chapters are devoted to the consideration of the inherent right of pageantry and dramatics to become again the handmaids of religion. The moral and rational justification of making use of these very effective and ancient instruments in communicating religious truth to the people is set forth in convincing terms. In chapters five to twelve, inclusive, there are described in an interesting and practical way the steps to be taken in the discovery and use of amateur dramatic talent in the work of the local church. The question as to how to proceed is answered in detail. In the closing chapter Mr. Meredith makes a particularly strong appeal for the widest use of educational dra-