CATHOLICS HOLD MAY FESTIVAL

Interesting Program Given at the Bellevue Under the Auspices of Historical Society

The American Cathelle Historical Society last evening gave its annual May Festival at the Bellevue-Stratford, an event which each successive year is taking a more important place in the art life of the city. The audience, while not large, was appreciative and contained many of the most prominent

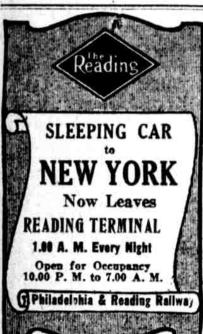
tained many of the most prominent Catholic residents of Philadelphia, including Cardinal Dougherty.

The program opened with a concert by the Palestrina Choir, under the direction of Nicola A. Montani. The choir presented a program ranging from compositions in the most severe polyphonic style as represented by Palestrina. "The Three Kings." an old Catalonian nativity song, and the "Vere Langueres." of Vittoria, through the later Russian school of Tschaikowsky, Rubetz and Gretchaninoff, to an exquisite "Meditation." by Monsigner Casimiri, who, it will be remembered, led the St. John Lateran Choir in its visit to Philadelphic two years ago, Musically considered, the last was as fine a composition as appeared on the program. position as appeared on the program, with the possible exception of the Tschaikowsy number. The concert closed with three Irish folk melodies, rather indifferently arranged, it must be confessed, by Christopher O'Hara, who, despite his undeniably Celtic name, did not altogether get the true idea of Irish folk song, one of the most beautiful in the world, into his arrangements.

The choir sang very well, indeed, especially when the severely difficult polyphony of the more elaborate Church compositions is considered, because there is no greater test of the capabilities of a choir than the old Catholic a capella music affords. The organization showed a high degree of training and an instant response to the indiand an instant response to the indi-cated wishes of the conductor, although cated wishes of the conductor, although it would be interesting to know where Mr. Montani got his precedent for the extreme sforzandi which was frequently used in the older compositions. The tonal quality of the choir was excellent, as were also the intonation and the diction, whether they sang in Latin. Itslian or English. Like all conductors who have not the entire services of a paid choir, Mr. Montani might improve some of the voices, especially in view of the fact that the music which the Palestrina Choir essays is as difficult Palestrina Choir essays is as difficult to sing as any music ever composed. but the work of the organization is surprisingly fine, and it is doing a work which is probably not attempted by any other choir in the country.

After the concert, there was a very entertaining dramatization of "Beauty and the Beast," which was well acted and finely staged, with beautiful scenic and lighting effects. This was fol-lowed by an attractive May-Pole Dance given by about twenty girls. A re-ception followed the close of the pro-

France Honors Mrs. O'Shaughnessy New York, May 20.—The Republic of France has just conferred the muchcoveted decoration of Officer de l'In-struction Publique, which carries with it the Palmes Academiques, upon Mrs. Nelson O'Shaughnessy, Mrs. O'Shaughnessy has been given that distinguished honor by the French Government in recognition of her war work, especially in her writing of "My Lorraine n her writing of "My Lorraine fournal" and her "Alsace in Rust and





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