

PERDITA AT THE FAIR.

CHICAGO, June 28.—There is a building in the Fair grounds whose structure might stand for a typical emblem of a world, so immense are its dimensions and so varied and numerous are the objects on display within its walls. It is the structure known as the Liberal Arts building and if there were no other exhibition on the grounds than that contained in its interior the value of this alone would make a trip to the locality a profitable and advisable enterprise. The dimensions and architecture of the building itself are perhaps the chief wonder of the Fair, the ground area being something over thirty acres and the height of the roof over the central hall being two hundred and forty-five feet. The floor space in the building including galleries comprises forty-four acres, and every inch of this space with the exception of the narrow aisles or passage-ways is occupied by exhibits. The building is divided into a great central hall three hundred and thirty by one thousand two hundred and eighty feet, and this is surrounded by a nave one hundred and seven feet wide. It is the largest building ever erected under a roof, and it is said to be three times larger than St. Peter's at Rome and four times larger than the Coliseum which had a seating capacity of eighty thousand persons. Three hundred thousand people, it is estimated, could be seated in the Liberal Arts building and each one given six square feet of space. The Auditorium is considered the most notable building in Chicago, but twenty of these structures it is said could find room on the great floor. The skylights measure eleven acres, and forty carloads of glass were used in the construction of the roof.

Entering this great building one is almost dazzled by the immensity of space and the stupendous array of exhibits ranged throughout its extent; as far almost as the eye can reach a dazzling and wonderful scene is unspread. Splendid pavilions representing every nation under the sun are grouped throughout its space, and within them are objects illustrating the industries and arts of the entire civilized globe. Each nation has vied with the others in the effort for display and the result is a magnificent vista of gorgeous arches, facades, statuary, etc., making the scene seem like a resplendent and enchanting vision.

As one looks down the dazzling arena the thing which attracts the most instant attention is the German pavilion, and one in fact which takes the palm of prominence from every other in the building. The pavilion occupies the middle space of the central hall and stretches over an extent comprising at least 350 feet. The design of the pavilion is extremely beautiful, each of the outer walls and entrances being a work of art. Columns and arches, great doors and windows figure in the construction and each of these is decorated with groups of splendid statuary illustrating scenes of the Niebelungen Lied. The exhibits contained in this grand pavilion are simply peerless in splendor and value, for though all the nations have furnished marvels in the way of magnificent exhibits, yet no

other country in the building can touch that of Germany's entire display. Of the thousand wonderful exhibits in the pavilion the most splendid is that of the porcelain manufacturers, the variety of articles composed in the display, together with the magnificent design of the arrangement, making it the principal feature in fact of the entire building.

The principal exhibit in this ware occupies the central space of the German pavilion and is in the form of a separate booth, constructed entirely of porcelain made in the shape of a castle, with a gorgeous central front and two side apartments or balconies with steps leading up on either side and great twisted columns supporting the fanciful arches and roof. The making of the twisted columns alone cost the manufacturers \$40,000 and when it is remembered that the entire structure, steps, floor, roof, walls, columns and its myriad decorations and exhibits contained within are of exquisite porcelain, one may gain some faint idea of the value of the whole collection. A pair of urns, hand-painted, which stand at the head of the steps, are valued at forty thousand dollars, and a much smaller one inside at fifteen thousand. A magnificent mantel done in tiles and a beautifully painted picture making part of the porcelain walls of the pavilion are striking features of the interior, and a hundred articles of porcelain brick-a-brac, make up the wonderfully beautiful collection. There is a clock six feet high artistically designed and executed with figures done in statuary and painting and vases, tables, cabinets and almost every other article imaginable are found executed in the beautiful ceramic.

A second porcelain display, the exhibit of another firm, provides a royal treat in its rare hand-painted pictures done in porcelain, the collection comprising copies of some of the most noted pictures of the old masters. Guido Reni and theistine Madonnas are beautifully executed and a copy of the picture, showing youth in pursuit of a beautiful figure representing pleasure with death on a black charger following close at his heels, shows some wonderfully exquisite coloring. Another impressive and artistically executed picture is that of three female figures representing dawn, day and night. In the foreground day beholds the sleeping gray dawn in her arms, and back of them, in purple shadows, lies the lifeless figure of night stretched out on the rocks, the different shades of color typifying the personality of each being faithfully and delicately rendered.

A number of furniture and house-furnishing firms have devoted enormous sums to a display, and the result is shown in a series of artistic rooms, showing designs of furniture, tapestries, curtains and other draperies, the whole arranged with artistic effect, and one of the treats of the Exposition is to view the progress that has been made in the art of house decorations and the beautiful, ingenious and luxurious appointments that figure in the fashionable and palatial residences of to-day. Besides the modern are also represented the old fashioned styles of furnishing apartments, one representing an old Norman hunting and dining

room, the furnishing having designs appropriate to the subject; the tapestry, frieze, etc., showing hunting scenes, and the chairs, mantel, candlestick, etc., being carved with falcon and deer heads.

Another extremely interesting department is the German clock exhibit, the collection comprising some beautiful and valuable specimens. There are a number of small cuckoo clocks whose cost is over \$100, and one large timepiece provided with obimes whose value is \$225. There are others whose cost is less dizzy, and there is no doubt that the most of the beautiful collection will be sold as souvenirs before the close of the Fair.

Besides the ornamental exhibits there are booths or booths devoted to the German silk and cloth manufacturers, the rows of immense show-cases showing silk from the single thread to the heaviest and most elegant fabrics, the latter alone being beautiful and varied enough to make in itself a sufficiently striking exhibit. Besides these are velvets, plushes, brocades, linens, etc., whose beauty and elegance both in design and luster are enough almost to dazzle one in looking at the display.

There is a whole section devoted to lace and one may see every variety of article from the yard lace, collars, cuffs, etc., to the most beautiful curtains wrought in wonderfully lovely designs of real lace. A large space is also devoted to embroideries, and some of the best specimens of work at the Fair in this line are to be found in the exhibits.

The rug department is a revelation of art, the artistic design and work exhibited excelling almost every other display upon the grounds except the East Indian.

An interesting section is that devoted to precious articles and souvenirs belonging to members of the royal family, and other titled and eminent persons of the German domain. There is a clock belonging to Kaiserin Frederick which stands five feet high and is provided with a royal bugle call which sounds at the stroke of the hour, a carved figure of a huntsman leaning from a tower at the top of the clock and blowing a trumpet typifying the design. An interesting object is an album which belonged to William I, presented by the ladies of Berlin on his 90th birthday, decorated with a beautifully carved design of his coat of arms, the edges of the cover bearing dates of different battles and noted events of his reign. There is a shield presented to Bismarck by the members of his regiment and an album presented to Von Moltke on his 90th birthday, by the knights of Germany.

What the cost of the whole German exhibit would amount to can in reality hardly be estimated. The German guard whom I interrogated concerning this item replied with a proud smile and shrug, "Impossible to estimate!" and from what I had viewed of the precious articles contained in the display and the thought of the cost of the structures and the transportation combined, was prepared to echo his exclamation.

PERDITA.

THE WONDERFULLY rapid increase in the number of lady dentists accounts in some degree for the decrease in the terrors of toothache.