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THE season opens next week, and the first of the really big balls that will be a feature of the year is the one on Wednesday for which Lord Leverhulme has lent his house, The Hill, at Hampstead.

This will be a particularly splendid affair, and as the house contains very lovely pictures, as well as other art treasures, non-dancers, as well as those who take the floor, can depend on an enjoyable evening.

At a Studio.

It is rather a novel experience to see a famous artist choosing fancy dresses to suit the types of the perspective wearers. The artist was Mr. de Laszlo and the scene his magnificent studio built in the garden behind his home in Fitzjohn's-avenue, Hampstead.

Miss Haidee Wright is to be her famous Queen Elizabeth, both in the pageant at the Empire Ball at Leverhulme's house, The Hill, Hampstead, next Wednesday. And as Mr. de Laszlo has most kindly promised to paint the portrait of the prizewinner in the pageant he was a very excellent person to give his advice.

An Oriental Doorkeeper.

The studio is a most interesting place; it is a structure of several rooms, bigger than many houses, and is entered by a separate door (opened by a Jap boy) from the street which runs alongside; then there is a covered passage to the house itself.

Presumably there is always an unfinished portrait on the easel; just now it is of a most interesting sitter—the wife of some diplomat, red-haired and very good looking—and the paint was barely dry from the last sitting.

One of the hung portraits is of the artist's mother, and is considered one of his very best pictures. There is, too, a recent likeness of Princess Andrew of Greece.