

An Appreciation

ROCHDALE folk cannot fail to be grateful for a further evidence of Miss Gracie Fields' interest in her native town. Amidst her wide circle of admiring friends, and her still greater public, which now encompasses practically the whole of the civilised world, she is always proud to associate her success with the town of her birth.

Few Artistes have shown so deep an affection and so great a loyalty to the home of their early debut, but throughout the whole of her career and her wonderful success on the stage, Miss Fields has displayed a spontaneous and consistent generosity to her "ain folk," which has evoked a strong and enduring affection on their part.

The charities of our town have need to be very grateful for the unsparing sacrifice which always accompanies Gracie's visit to Rochdale. Her cheering presence and happy nature bring unbounded joy to the bed-ridden patients at the Infirmary, while the old folks at the "Institute" rival each other in their desire to show their visitor how much they appreciate her visits. The blind—although they cannot see—"feel" the joy of her presence, and carry for many days the memory of her laughter and her cheering melodies.

No greater tribute can be paid to the "Artiste of the people" than for every Rochdalian to feel pride in the knowledge that she is "one of us."

In her two previous visits Miss Fields has raised large sums for Local Charities, and her coming visit betokens an equal success and a still more gratifying result. For all these tokens of self-sacrifice, affection and goodwill on the part of Miss Fields, the Committee who are responsible for the issue of this Souvenir, say "THANK YOU."