

ing School, must also frankly confess that now-a-days, *in its way*, the education of a Nurse is every whit as complete for her calling as a Medical man's is for his pursuit in life. Finally, we are confident that Mr. Snell will not deny, for one moment, that Nursing "requires as absolute a devotion to duty as Medicine and Law demand from their votaries."

We have, therefore, proved that in each separate particular the statements of the paragraph in question are strictly true, and in fact less than the whole truth. We earnestly hope that we may have convinced Mr. Snell upon this point, and await with considerable interest more detailed information of his objection to the present constitution of the Association. We are, however, glad to know from many sources that this constitution—drawn up and framed, as it actually was, by many of the recognised leaders of the Medical profession—has been warmly approved by Medical men all over the United Kingdom. Still, it is quite possible that Mr. Snell, with the critical acumen for which he is distinguished, has discovered some defects in the Bye-Laws, and all who wish well to the Association must concur in wishing that these may be exposed and remedied as soon as possible.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ART OF NURSING.

BY MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK.

(Continued from page 383.)

I CAN give no better idea of the development of Nursing in England, than by tracing very briefly from its foundation, the history of the oldest Hospital in London—that of St. Bartholomew in Smithfield. This I am able to do by the kind permission of Mr. Morant Baker, who has already delivered a lecture on the subject.

This Hospital was founded more than seven centuries ago, by Rahere, a man known in his youth as the jester or minstrel of Henry II., but "who becoming," according to an old chronicle, "mercifully converted from the error of his ways, determined to make a pilgrimage to Rome, coveting in so great labour to do the worthy fruits of penance. And while he tarried there in that meanwhile, he began to be vexed with grievous sickness, and his dolours, little and little taking their increase, he drew to the extreme of life, the while dreading within himself, that he had not still for his sins satisfied God. Therefore, he supposed that God took vengeance of him for his sins amongst outlandish people."

It will be here observed, that even at that early date, our insular prejudices were fully developed;

therefore he avowed that, "If health God would him grant, that he might return to his country, he would make an Hospital in recreation of poor men, and to them so there gathered necessaries minister after his power." Rahere was now warned in a vision by the blessed Saint Bartholomew, that the Hospital was to be dedicated to him, and to choose for its site—"a place in the suburbs of London at Smithfield."

On his return to London, Rahere obeyed these behests, and founded the Priory and Hospital of St. Bartholomew, about the year 1123, becoming himself the first prior. To assist him in his work, he had a staff of one master, eight brothers, and four sisters. The master was an old man, Alfun by name, "to whom was," as the MS. states, "sad age and sadness of age, with experience of long time." His chief duties consisted in begging provisions and other necessaries for the Priory and Hospital, thus supplementing without doubt, in a very useful manner, the gifts which were obtained through preaching and the fame of the miracles performed in the church. We hear, for instance, of "A man who was paralytic for many years, being taken in a basket to the altar of the new church, and recovering the use of his limbs." Again, "A woman's tongue could not be contained in her mouth. Rahere touched it with relics and painted it with holy water, and within the same hour it went back between her teeth." It is not stated, however, how long it remained there. Many other miracles are related by the good monk, but these will suffice to show at what an early period of English history, St. Bartholomew's became famous for gifts of healing. Rahere died about the year 1144, and was buried in his own church, of which, however, only a part—the choir—remains. The inscription on his tomb is significant of the great work he did, when he covered the marshy ground of Smithfield "with beautiful buildings for the worship and praise of God, and good deeds to men. He will comfort all her waste places, He will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord. Joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody."

The Hospital continued to be Nursed by the Augustinian order until the Reformation. As Sir Dyce Duckworth said in his opening lecture at the inauguration of the Nursing School of St. Bartholomew's in 1877: "It is surely very curious for us to-day to look back some 400 years into the history of the old foundation, and to consider that in place of the elaborate working staff of all ranks, which now exists here, for the relief of suffering, there were on this very spot of ground some few devoted members of the Augustinian order, who, clad in black and cowled cloaks, with shaven head and

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