

with the result that the cost of the building was almost immediately covered by donations. On March 26th, at the invitation of the Reverend Mother, who has charge of the Hospital, as well as the little home for blind children, a number of ladies and gentlemen assembled to witness the blessing of the chapel. Cardinal MORAN officiated, and congratulated the Sisters on the possession of a very beautiful chapel. Engaged as they were in a special work of charity, a work which sometimes took them away from their convent, some such resting-place of prayer and preparation was needed. Their lives were lives of daily self-sacrifice, and this chapel would serve as a place in which they could keep alive their piety while gathering strength for the performance of those duties of love and charity which peculiarly belonged to them. Only a few hours ago he had laid at Strathfield the foundations of a structure which was destined to be a great centre of religion and enlightenment, and now it was his happiness to consecrate to God this storehouse of charity. Enlightenment and Truth formed the golden diadem of Holy Church, and in that crown of virtues works of charities were the radiant gems. It was five or six years since the devoted Sisters came amongst them, and the people of that district were able in a particular way to realise the immense benefit of their presence and their worth. Every day found them active: some watching and ministering to the patients in the hospital, others attending the sick in their homes, others travelling here and there at the call of suffering. Not only the sick, but those stricken by poverty and privation, were the objects of their loving care. He need not remind those present that in this and so many of her other institutions of benevolence and pity the Catholic Church knew no distinction or difference of religion. All the riches of Catholic charity were open to the stricken and the suffering, and the only passport needed at the door of that institution was pain and affliction. For every pang of misery, there was a throb of compassion in the heart of the Church, and when charity was asked it was given without question and without reserve. Everywhere, they would find the hospice and the hospital of the Church—homes for the old and poor and for the young and destitute; and here in this institution they saw how over those who had not a parent's loving care the Church spread her mantle, and became to them more than a mother. For every form of affliction and distress the Church endeavoured to find a remedy and recourse, and in the present instance this spirit of compassion and charity was manifested in one of

its most beautiful forms. He trusted this spirit would sustain the Sisters in their loving labours, not only in the city and suburbs, but in the distant parts from which the call of duty came, and that their works would be blessed by happy and consoling fruits as in the past few years. The Church might be described as the chosen garden of God's work on earth, and in that garden who would say the institutions of charity were not the choicest flowers? Once again he would congratulate the Sisters on this addition to their home of good work. The blessing of Almighty God would rest on them, and in this blessing all would be sharers who assisted by tender sympathy and kindly help.

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I AM very glad to hear such good accounts of the progress of District Nursing work in Melbourne. A kind correspondent sends me the following account:—"The annual meeting of the Melbourne District Nursing Society was held on March 14th, in the council chamber of the Town-hall. The Mayor (Councillor SNOWDEN) presided, and there was a large company of ladies and gentlemen present, including Mrs. MADDEN, wife of the Acting Governor, who attended by invitation. The eighth annual report of the committee stated that the year had commenced with the satisfactory balance of £838 16s. 4d. This had been gradually reduced, and the amount now standing to credit was £554 11s. 6d. The committee had made application to the Hospital Sunday Fund to have the society placed on the list of those which should share in the proceeds of the fund. It was announced that the application had been complied with, but subsequently aid was refused on the ground that other institutions were in greater need of help. During the year three Nurses had been employed, and they had paid 17,015 visits to 653 patients. Of the patients 230 were cured, 182 were relieved, 132 were taken to Hospitals and other charitable institutions, 34 died, and 31 were discharged as unsuitable. The balance sheet showed the receipts for the year to have been £291 18s. 1d., and the expenditure £576 2s. 1d. The chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said that it was satisfactory inasmuch as it showed that the Society was in funds, but unsatisfactory, since it showed that during the year the Society had retrograded in the matter of receipts. In usefulness, however, it had shown a distinct advance, as there was an increase in the number of patients treated and visits paid, and in the number cured or relieved, whilst there had been a great falling off in the deaths. The Rev. J. H. O'CONNELL seconded the motion, observing that the Society during the year had spent almost

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