

Mr. A. D. Bermel, Chairman of the Hospital, welcomed the guests and explained the object of the Open Day, which was to arouse interest in the hospital's "League of Friends," run by a committee to procure extra comforts for patients which could not be provided by the Health Service. He hoped for many new subscribers.

Matron then gave a short talk on the early history of the hospital and said that it was one of the first four infirmaries in the country to become hospitalised and a training school for nurses. Matron said as nurses they knew what a responsibility they had to their local people and that they wanted to give them the very best nursing care and every consideration when they were patients, but also that they wanted to do so much more than that to make their stay in hospital happy, explaining the kind of things on which the money could be spent. She told the audience that the inspiration to start the League of Friends came from a patient who had given £80 worth of savings certificates to the hospital, in gratitude for the care he had received. Matron finished by saying, "This man has lighted the torch; with your help we shall keep it burning."

Mr. Gibson, a member of the Committee, then described St. George-in-the-East Hospital as a "citadel of light and healing." "It is a happy place," he said, "and our patients get expert attention, but we still want to do the little extra for them."

Tableaux Depicting

The History of Nursing.

A TABLEAU DEPICTING the History of Nursing, commencing from the dawn of Medicine and the days of Witchcraft and Sorcery. The Witch could be seen preparing her brew and casting out demons.

The next Tableau showed the early Greek civilisation showing the courtyard of a temple of the Greek God of Healing "Aesculapieia" with Greek citizens and the Greek God "Aesculapius" in the foreground.

Then came the Roman civilisation showing a tessellated paved Roman courtyard with Roman soldiers, a Roman Matron and Emperor Nero against a background showing some of the achievements, i.e., a straight Roman road, an Aqueduct, an arena and a Roman arch with a Latin inscription. In the foreground was a Roman citizen enjoying himself in a bath.

The Monastic Age followed, showing the walls, gateways and cloisters of a Monastery, with a group of figures representing St. Francis of Assisi and his animals, one of his Franciscan Friars and two Poor Clares.

The fifth Tableau showed Mediaeval Medicine, the Crusades with Military Knights against a castle background. The next jumped to Tudor times with King Henry VIII against an inky background to represent the decay in the care and nursing of the sick which followed this Monarch's dissolution of the Monasteries.

This was followed by St. Vincent de Paul and his Lay Sisters of Charity who cared for the sick in their own homes. After this there was a long gap in time to the Victorian era when the care of the sick had fallen as low as it had ever been. The scene showed Dickens' Betsy Prig and Sairey Gamp refreshing themselves from their "bottles" while the patient lay neglected in a corner of the room.

Then came Florence Nightingale in a crowded ward in the Military Hospital at Scutari, holding her lamp, walking between the beds. This was the forerunner of the next Tableau which showed by contrast a scene in a modern hospital ward—a bright, airy and cheerful place with modern nurses in their hygienic uniform.

Another aspect of modern nursing followed—the Queen's Nurse in the patient's own home showing a mother her newly born baby.

Finally, the Industrial Nurse working in a factory surgery.

Hallowe'en.

THE EVE OF ALL SAINTS is an ancient religious festival—the great feast of the dead, when the barriers between this world and the next were said to fall, and fairies and witches were much in evidence. Introduced in the seventh century, as a date set apart to commemorate all saints, known and unknown, it was originally observed on May 13th, but was later altered to November 1st by Gregory III, which date has since been recognised by the Church of England—although in the Greek Church it is, in fact, celebrated on the First Sunday after Pentecost.

In bygone years, the occasion has been celebrated by numerous customs and rituals, and is still widely popular today, particularly among Celtic races.

Many of us will remember, with joy, the sight of those dangling cords, with a treacle scone or bobbing apple on the end. This age-old custom of catching or dipping for apples is of Druidic origin, a form of divination, and even today, girls still try to find out the initials of their future husband, by throwing apple-peel over their shoulders.

To sit under a Hawthorn tree at this time, is considered extremely dangerous, and even more perilous is it to interfere with a "fairy-ring," for they are supposed to mark the site of a fairy settlement.

Another fascinating custom is one performed by the young folk to test their chances of future happiness, by dropping nuts into the flames of a newly-kindled fire—the matrimonial result, of course, lies in whether the nuts pop violently apart, or smoulder peacefully side by side. Then again, if a young girl should stand before her mirror at the appointed hour, she will see the face of her future husband over her shoulder, but should she turn to greet him, alas! the spell is broken.

These are but a few of the joys and expectations of Hallowmas, neither must we forget the "chappit tatties," hot from the pot, or indeed the glowing candles, which play an equally important part in this religious festival; wax lights are used, it being the tradition that Bees came from Paradise—and when the dancing and feasting is at its best, amid the glow of candles and the popping of the nuts, there is perhaps time for one last thought—

"From ghoulies and ghosties, and long-lygity beasties, and things that go bump in the night—may the good Lord deliver us."

DOROTHY RICHARDS.

THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT Nurses Association, founded 77 years ago, continues to progress, and largely under its own "steam."

It was a pleasure to attend the Annual General Meeting on September 23rd of what was the first institution founded to supply trained Nurses to the sick poor in London.

They moved into their new premises at 18-20, Montague Street, London, W.C.1, about two years ago. Harmonious co-operation is obviously their watchword.

The writer paid her first visit last year, when she was invited to a Sale of Work to raise funds, and on each occasion was impressed by the happy, friendly atmosphere.

We would like to congratulate all concerned, especially Miss E. E. Loynes, the Superintendent, and her staff.

They are the proud possessors of a letter from Florence Nightingale congratulating them on their work.

A suggestion that some of the Nurses might like to visit the British College of Nurses, Ltd., and to view their Florence Nightingale Collection was gladly accepted.

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