

Hospital, Lenzie, Glasgow, and after passing the Final Examination of the Royal Medico Psychological Association, came to London to join the Male Nurses (Temperance) Co-operation in 1900.

He won a seat on the General Nursing Council for England and Wales at its first election, and was appointed Chairman of the Finance Committee.

In 1941, Mr. Donaldson was co-opted by the London County Council as a member of their Asylums Committee, and under the National Health Act was appointed a member of their Management Committees; he also served on the Management Committee of two of the largest hospitals in the country.

Mr. Donaldson retired in 1952, and the Nursing Profession has lost one of its ablest members.

The Royal Maundy.

THE DISTRIBUTION of the Royal Maundy is one of the most interesting of the ancient ceremonies retained in the Church of England. The ceremony takes place annually on Maundy Thursday, usually in Westminster Abbey.

The ceremony has been subjected to many changes and much of its quaintness has disappeared, but it still remains a most interesting survival of an ancient custom.

It is generally agreed that the word "Maundy" is derived from the *Mandatum* which our Lord delivered to His disciples on the day before His Crucifixion.

The washing of the feet of the poor was, of course, an important feature in the religious observance of Maundy Thursday, and observances of a religious character bearing on the Passion of our Lord were generally celebrated in most Christian countries on this day.

In the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem the Patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church washes the right foot of twelve senior clerics—who represent the Apostles—while the story is intoned.

The Armenians also hold a similar service, in the form of a Mass, in their cathedral of St. James, in the old City.

At Rome the Pope washes the feet of thirteen priests, or pilgrims as they are called, who represent the twelve Apostles and the Angel who came to the table at which St. Gregory was serving.

The Pope then serves bread and wine, bestows his benediction upon the pilgrims, and leaves them to finish their repast.

A similar service used to be held at Moscow by the Archbishop.

In Austria the Emperor, assisted by the Archdukes of the blood royal, served a repast of many courses to twelve old men, and washed their feet.

In Spain, at Seville, it was customary for the Archbishop to give a splendid cold dinner to twelve paupers, and then to receive them at the Cathedral, where the ablution ceremonies were performed. Similar services have also been held in France.

In England, the Maundy is referred to by St. Augustine about A.D. 600, and Mr. Feasey, in his "Ancient English Holy Week Ceremonial," tells us that the rite can be "traced back to the *Pedilacium* (Lavenda) of the fifth century, which followed the Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday. He explains that the ceremony of washing the feet of the poor was not limited to that day alone, and states that prior to the Norman Conquest the *pedilacium* was performed daily in some monasteries and that this was the custom of St. Oswald.

In course of time it became usual for our monarchs to celebrate the day preceding Good Friday in particular commemoration of the *Cana Domini*. To the ordinary ceremony on that day was gradually added gifts of clothes, food and money, to which the name of Maundy was given,

and from a remote period down to the end of the seventeenth century, the ceremony of the washing of the feet and the distribution of alms by the Sovereign was performed in this country.

In some accounts of the ceremony it is stated that the Sovereign kissed the feet of the poor people and gave them the gowns they were wearing.

Regarding the presentation of the royal gown it is interesting to note that on March 19th, 1572-3 Elizabeth I is recorded as substituting a gift of money in a red purse for Her Majesty's gown, "which, by ancient order, she should give to some of them at her pleasure." She had, therefore, "changed that rewarde into money to be equally divided amongst them all, namely, 20s. apiece."

In ransoming her gown, Elizabeth, who was too vain to part readily with her bejewelled raiment, was but reverting to the custom of her little brother Edward, whose childish robes were redeemed at 20s. to each of the twelve men to whom he also presented ten pence in his first regnal year. This twenty shillings continues to be given as redemption money and forms part of the Maundy money given to each recipient.

A detailed account of the 1572 ceremony states that the Queen took part in a grand Maundy Ceremonial in the Hall at Greenwich, where the recipients were duly assembled.

It has been recorded that in Tudor and earlier times the Queen-Consorts gave their Maundy, but we have few detailed accounts of the wives of the Stuart Kings performing this office.

During the Civil War Charles I did not fail to "keep his Maundy."

It is recorded that in 1642 His Majesty kept his Maundy in the Minster upon the Seventh of April. Charles was then in his forty-second year.

Charles I, like some of his predecessors, had refrained from the ceremonial rite of the washing of feet, owing to an outbreak of plague.

Charles II, in spite of the plague, won great popularity by resuming the old-established custom of "personal service."

In his revival of the personal ministration, Charles II also restored more or less the service of the distribution, etc., in vogue under the Tudors.

It was in 1685 that the washing of feet was last performed by the Sovereign, and the instance is recorded in the Chapels Royal Register. "On Maundy Thursday, April 16th, 1685, our gracious King James ye 2nd was'd, wp'd and kiss'd the feet of 52 poor men with wonderful humility."

The specially minted Maundy coins as we now know them were first made in the reign of Charles II, and 1670 is the earliest date that contains a full set of groat, threepenny, half-groat and penny, but there is a *half-groat only* of 1668.

In this year of 1955 the Royal Maundy will take place in Southwark Cathedral by the Queen's request to celebrate the Centenary of the Bishopric. The Cathedral was previously St. Mary Ovary and was in the Diocese of Winchester.

The ceremony still bears a resemblance to the service used in the time of Elizabeth I. It is one of the few occasions when the public sees the King's (or Queen's) Bodyguard of the Yeomen of the Guard in their full uniform.

This is the oldest military body in the Kingdom, whose record dates back to 1485, and who still wear with proud distinction the Tudor crown ornament which commemorates their original appointment.

Although the washing of feet was discontinued in the seventeenth century, all the Almonry officials continue to be girt with towels and carry the traditional nosegays. Prior to the year 1808 there were entered on the Almonry Records the names of some old men who were called the children of the Royal Almonry. The duties were to attend at the Chapel Royal on Maundy Thursday arrayed in linen scarves.

Their fees in the aggregate amounted to £21 for this service. This being considered an abuse of the Charity these

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