

about 1,300 members. About 1,000 of these live in Ghent.

The Hospice de la Potterie is a most interesting place on quite the other side of the town. It has a Museum attached to it where there are many interesting things, and all beautifully kept. There are some old leather chairs amongst other things, thickly studded with brass nails, and every nail is polished to the perfection of brightness. There is some interesting old tapestry in this hospital, very well preserved, in the passage leading from the Museum to the Hospital. The patients are all old people, most of whom, I suppose, would be in the workhouse in England. There are some 600 or 700 of them, and they all looked so happy and comfortable, though the ventilation of the wards was certainly not up to the modern standard. Many of the women were making lace or knitting.

Private Nursing in Bruges seems to be done by Sisters who charge a franc and a half a day for their service, so that it would be difficult for a "laic" to make a "living wage." The Sisters of St. Vincent de Paul nurse the poor in their own homes, so that provision seems to be made for the nursing of "all sorts and conditions."

There are very many interesting things to be seen in Bruges, but if I mention them all I shall never get on to other towns equally interesting. I may perhaps mention the Maison Noir, as I do not think the guide books generally speak of it. It is just behind the theatre, and is the house in which the notorious Duke of Alva lived when he was in Bruges. Outside one of the lower windows the iron cage, in which the heads of victims of Alva's cruelty were placed for the inspection of the public after executions, is still in position. The house is said to be haunted, and no wonder!

There is a very pleasant excursion from Bruges up one of the canals to a little village in Holland named Sluis. The boats start from the Quai de la Potterie. Sluis is a most quaint little place, and is well worth a visit.

We left Bruges with reluctance, and moved on to Ghent, which we reached in about half an hour by an express train. It is certainly wise to spend a few days at Ghent and visitors to this city will do well to stay with Mademoiselle Bayet, at 4, Rue de Savaen. It will cost them six francs a day, and it would not be easy to find a better appointed house, or a more comfortable pension. First as to the hospitals. There is a large civil hospital of some six or seven hundred beds. It is nursed by the Sisters of St. Bernardine. Here again the Sisters were not very much in evidence, in some of the wards I saw a solitary Sister serving dinners, but from the opinion I was able to form in a single visit I should say that the hospital was understaffed, and that scientific nursing, as we understand it, is unknown. There is a very nice new operating theatre being built and furnished at the present time, which is quite up to date, perhaps when that is in use, scientific nursing may be found to be a necessity also. There is a large and very nice hospital for aged men and women, which is nursed by the Little Sisters of the Poor, and seems very well managed, everything is spotless, and the wards most bright and cheery. There is a very pretty garden which is cared for by the more able-bodied male patients. There is a very nice chapel, and it has a gallery, so that the patients in the upper wards can be easily carried or wheeled into it and be present at the services. The money for the Chapel was, I was told, given by some

benevolent American ladies who visited the Hospital, and afterwards left this very acceptable memento of their visit. The little mortuary at this Hospital is in the garden. It is nice as far as it goes, but there is nothing very special about it.

There is a very interesting dispensary in Ghent, of which the nurses are ladies of "high degree." These dispensaries, I am informed, were founded first at Lyons, and the original one was such a success that others were established at Brussels, Ghent, and other places. Certainly the work seems excellently well done. When I visited the Dispensary at Ghent work was in full swing. Some four and five doctors were busily engaged in treating patients in different rooms, and were being most efficiently waited upon by the ladies. The work was being done quite on modern lines. I could quite well have imagined I was in the out-patient department of a busy English Hospital. There is a small operating theatre attached to the dispensary, and altogether it seems thoroughly well organized and nursed.

The town of Ghent is well worth a visit. The Cathedral is a very fine building. It contains a picture by Jan and Hubert van Eyck named "The Adoration of the Lamb", which must be almost priceless. There is also a beautiful pulpit by Delvaux, in oak and marble, representing the tree of life. At the foot of the tree is an allegorical representation of Time and Truth, in figures nearly or quite life-size. Truth is showing to Time something written down on the pages of an open book, and Time is shrinking back from the sight. A little cupid holds a crown over the head of Truth. Besides the Cathedral there are 24 churches, 7 of which are really fine ones. The church of St. Michel is lovely, more beautiful than the Cathedral even, it has also a most beautiful pulpit. There is a very fine view from the top of the belfry, which is near the Cathedral. I speak with certainty, as I mounted the 325 steps, and was rewarded when I got to the top. The Hotel de Ville is a most fascinating place. It is said to be one of the most beautiful specimens of Gothic architecture in Belgium. The facade towards the market place is built in the Renaissance style, and is quite a different to the rest. The interior is beautiful, and there a very fine Gothic staircase. The Castle of the Counts of Flanders is a very interesting old ruin, and the Abbey of St. Bavon, also a very fine ruin, is perfectly lovely, this alone would quite repay one for a visit to Ghent. There are two Béguinages at Ghent, the smaller one is generally considered the most picturesque. There are also some very fine Botanical Gardens and a very beautiful park. The historical associations of the place are interesting. It was the birthplace of John of Gaunt, and it was at one time the capital of Flanders. The inhabitants, many of whom were weavers, were of an independent turn of mind, and succeeded in obtaining from their sovereigns many concessions. The process they adopted seems to have been a simple one. Whenever the princes attempted to levy an unpopular tax the citizens rang their alarm bell, flew to arms, and expelled the officials who were appointed to exact payment. At one time they succeeded in repulsing an English army of 24,000 men. One drawback to both Bruges and Ghent is that the streets are paved with cobbles, and they are most tiring to walk upon.

M. B.

(To be continued.)

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