

PROCESSION OF SAINTLY WOMEN AND THE
NURSING ORDERS.

Then there entered the Hall the Procession of Saintly Women and Members of the Nursing Orders of the past; slowly and impressively they passed up the Hall in dignified and fair array in the following order, till their leader paused before Hygeia. First came
AGAMEDE THE FAIR-HAIRED (*The Iliad*),

Miss Kathleen Banister

"Who knew all drugs, so many as the wide earth nourisheth."

followed by

PHOEBE OF CENCHREA,

1st Century Miss B. Kent

The first Deaconess; described by St. Paul as "a succourer of many and of myself also."

Deaconesses in the early Church were admitted to the diaconate by the laying on of hands. At their ordination they were vested with the stole by the Bishop, and received also a maniple, ring, and crown. Their duties were identical with those of the deacons, and they were the first parish workers and district visitors.

THE EMPRESS HELENA,

3rd Century Mrs. Staples

Widow of the Emperor Constantius Chlorus, and mother of Constantine the Great. Converted to the Christian faith in 311 A.D., at the age of 63, and 15 years afterwards made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, the first woman to do so. Discovered the true cross at Jerusalem, a portion of which she carried to Rome. She built shelters for strangers and pilgrims on the way to Jerusalem.

MARCELLA, 4th Century Miss Elma Smith

A Roman Matron, leader of a group of Matrons who, under the free marriage contract, preserved their legal and personal dignity. They used their independent positions and great wealth to organise large foundations for charity and nursing work. During the sack of Rome she was cruelly beaten and injured by the barbarians. She died as a result of her injuries.

ST. BRIDGET OF KILDARE,

6th Century Miss V. Adams

An Irish Abbess who governed related houses of monks and nuns. She is usually represented as carrying the Gospels, and a lighted lamp to symbolise that she instructed the Irish people in the Gospel. She also carries a model of the Abbey which she built. She taught and preached, healing the sick, especially lepers, and restoring sight to the blind. She founded the first community of women in Ireland, now called Bridgettines.

ST. HILDA OF WHITBY,

7th Century Miss B. Cutler

A great grandchild of King Edwin, daughter of Hereic and Bregeswida, and Abbess of Whitby, ruling over related Benedictine monasteries of men and women, a great educationalist, and counsellor of kings and princes. She was also adored by the people.

GRAND MASTER OF THE ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM, 12th Century...Mr. J. S. Burns

A hospital founded at Amalfi (1050 A.D.) was the cradle of the illustrious fraternity of the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes, and of Malta. Established in England in the year 1100 A.D. by some of the brothers on their return from Jerusalem. Their first house was the beautiful Priory at Clerkenwell, of which only one gate is now left, which is the headquarters of the Order in England.

RAHERE, 12th Century Mr. C. D. Kerr

A Court favourite in the reign of Henry I., where, "in spectacles, in feasts, in plays, and other courtly mockeries and trifles intending, he led forth the business of all the day." Repenting of his follies he determined to go to the Court of Rome, "coveting in so great a labour to do the worthy fruits of penance. . . . While he tarried there he began to be vexed with grievous sickness. . . . He avowed that if health God would him grant, that he might return to his country, he would make a hospital in recreation of poor men, and to them so there gathered necessities minister after his power." Subsequently St. Bartholomew appeared to him in a vision, telling him that he had "chosen a place in the suburbs of London, in Smithfield, where, in my name, thou shalt found a Church." Returning to London, Rahere built, with the King's approval, the Priory Church of St. Bartholomew the Great, in which he is buried, and St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Smithfield. He was a member of the Augustinian Order.

QUEEN MATILDA,

12th Century Mrs. Netterville Barron

Wife of King Stephen. Founded St. Katharine's Hospital, originally on the site of St. Katharine's Docks, moved in 1825 to Regent's Park. The patronage is vested in the Queens of England, and forms part of their dower. When Queen Victoria founded the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses she granted a house in the Close to the General Superintendent. Queen Matilda also founded the Hospital of St. Giles in the Fields, for long one of the most important leper hospitals in England, and established an Order of Poor Clares to serve in the wards, taking a personal share in the nursing.

SISTER OF THE ORDER OF ST. MARTHA,

12th Century Miss H. M. Smith

The Sisters of the Order of St. Martha belonged to the Béguines of Flanders. The date of their foundation is disputed, some attributing it to St. Begga, daughter of the Duke of Brabant, 685 A.D. The Béguinage at Bruges, still existing, was founded in 1184 A.D. The Béguines maintained hospitals and nursed the sick in private houses.

SISTER OF ST. ESPRIT,

12th Century Miss Hollyer

The Order of St. Esprit was identified with the rise and development of hospitals within city walls, whereas they had formerly been mainly

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