

bined the relief of the poor, the care of the sick, with the duties of the soldier—and it was during his administration that the rules of the hospital of St. John were definitely promulgated.

"The hospitallers were now divided into three classes: first, the knights, men of patrician birth, who bore arms and monopolised the dignities of the Order; second, the priests, who attended to all religious duties in church, camp, and hospital; third, the serving brothers, or *serjens* (half knights), who served as they were needed. . . . When not engaged in war the various duties of the hospital occupied the knights, and it is said that not even the heroes of Greece were more zealous than the heroes of Palestine in healing the wounded soldier and pilgrim. The fame of these warrior monks soon filled all Christendom, and the youthful chivalry of Europe vied with each other in the wish to be enrolled under the White Cross banner." The banner of St. John was a white cross on a red field.

"In accordance with the papal edict the black habit with the cowl and the white linen cross of eight points was at first worn by all hospitallers. At a later period the Knights of St. John were distinguished from the others by a white cross upon a red ground. During the solemn and impressive ceremonies with which

a knight was received into the Order, the black robe was thrown over him, and, pointing to the white cross, the brethren said: 'We wear this white cross as a sign of purity. Wear it also within thy heart as well as outwardly, and keep it without soil or stain. The eight points are the signs of the eight beatitudes, which thou

must ever preserve, viz.: 1. Spiritual joy. 2. To live without malice. 3. To weep over thy sins. 4. To humble thyself to those who injure thee. 5. To love justice. 6. To be merciful. 7. To be sincere and pure of heart. 8. To suffer persecution.'"

Other celebrated Orders were (1) the *Red Cross Knights or Templars* (1119 A.D.), a Military Order formed for the sole purpose of guiding and guarding pilgrims through mountain passes and other difficult and dangerous places on the way to and from Jerusalem. They established a headquarters at Jerusalem, near the Temple, and hence their name, Templars. They wore a red cross on the shoulders to remind them that they must be ready to shed their blood in defence of the Faith. (2) The

Deutsche Order, or Teutonic Knights (1191), founded by

a German merchant of Bremen. They wore over their black habit a white cloak, with a cross embroidered in black on the shoulder. They were divided into warriors, nurses, and spiritual brethren. (3) The *Knights of St. Lazarus*, according to some



HABIT OF THE RELIGIOUS SISTERS OF THE ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM IN THE HOSPITAL OF BEAULIEU BEFORE THE TAKING OF RHODES.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)