

NURSING ECHOES.

Those who were privileged to witness the procession on Sunday in honour of the canonisation of the "Blessed Maid" will not easily forget it. The sunshine of a perfect May day lit up and gave the finishing touch to a spectacle which has surely been unrivalled in modern times. Women of all ages and ranks combined in it to do honour to the Saint. Charming little girls, flower-crowned and carrying lilies; children dressed in the peasant dress of Joan's period; young maidens gowned in snowy white with flowing veils; women veiled in blue edged with gold; handsome matrons in black lace mantillas; and nuns of various orders helped to swell the ranks which numbered thousands. Amongst these were members of the Catholic Nurses' Guild and the French Red Cross in varying uniforms, many of them wearing war medals, and not a few the Mons Star. The central figure—St. Joan—was a perfect picture of girlish beauty and dignity. She won all hearts in the vast crowd of onlookers, this sweet maid of seventeen years. She sat astride her powerful white horse, which was caparisoned in blue grey cloth decorated with *fleur de lys*, and led by pages in mediæval dress. The slight figure with its hint of endurance clad in jerkin and heavy armour, the gold filet in her bright hair, the grace of her pose as she held aloft the white standard, was a worthy representation of the Saint in whose honour the vast mass of people had assembled.

Women who have a vocation for the religious life, and wish at the same time to train and continue to nurse the sick, may be pleased to know of the work of the Community of the Holy Rood; North Ormesby, Middlesbrough. The Sisterhood was established sixty years ago, and has been a nursing community from the first. The North Ormesby Hospital is a recognised training school (116 beds); soon it is hoped it will be enlarged; the training is thoroughly up-to-date, and many nurses trained there have obtained, and fill with credit, good positions in the hospital world.

The Sisters, who are all trained nurses, have always given their services in the hospital, and are glad to hear of ladies who wish for thorough training, combined with free church privileges.

There is little doubt that the very materialistic attitude towards nursing which has of late years animated many probationers, will react on the profession, and candidates inspired by altruism will hope to associate themselves with religious communities.

At the annual meeting of the Gloucestershire County Nursing Association it was stated that the shortage of nurses had become a source of acute anxiety to public authorities, the chief causes of the shortage being the low salaries offered to nurses, the absence of any provision of superannuation, and the difficulty experienced by nurses in securing comfortable lodgings or homes. The sub-committee had carefully considered the question of salaries, and recommended the County Council to continue the grant of £14 to each association whose nurses undertook health work, &c., as a minimum, to be increased if necessary to a maximum up to one-half of the approved expenses if they were satisfied the nurse was receiving a suitable salary. It had been decided to increase the salaries of village nurses to £120 per annum, and fully-trained nurses to £140 per annum inclusive. A grant of £2,600 had been received from the county funds of the British Red Cross Society, conditionally on a scheme for its use being approved by the trustees of the county funds. It was proposed and approved that this sum should be invested and the income therefrom used in training additional nurses, and this had been done.

Mrs. Cooke Hurlle spoke of the great shortage of nurses, which was to a great extent due to the very poor salaries offered and to the small prospect of advance in position.

Dr. Middleton Martin urged the provision of proper housing accommodation, and said he was anxious that nurses should be provided with pensions on reaching an age which made it impossible for them to continue their work.

The Queen Victoria Jubilee inspector paid her annual visit during the year, and sent a very favourable report. The committee wished to record their appreciation of Miss Milford's work as County Superintendent, which had been very trying owing to the shortage of nurses. An agreement had been made with Kingswood District Nurses' Home by which six beds were reserved for the training of nurse-midwives for the County Association, and this arrangement had so far proved very satisfactory, the Home being very comfortable and the pupils being thoroughly well trained and cared for. The report concluded with a summary of the work done by the superintendent.

How can the Gloucestershire County Nursing Association expect thoroughly qualified nurses when their pay is only £20 a year more than village nurses, whose training and experience is very limited? Much better to have expended the Red Cross grant in a substantial

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