

**PROFESSOR M. A. NUTTING, R.N., M.A.**

At the recent Commencement Exercises of the University of Yale, Professor William Lyon Phelps presented Miss Mary Adelaide Nutting, Professor of Nursing, Department of Nursing and Health, Teacher's College, Columbia University, New York, for the conferring of the honorary degree of Master of Arts. British Nurses, to whom, through the International Council of Nurses, Miss Nutting is so well known, will rejoice with their American colleagues over this recognition of one whose single aim has been to uplift nursing education, to secure for nursing a place in the University curriculum, and to demonstrate the honour and dignity of the profession of which she is so honoured and beloved a leader.

Professor Phelps described our distinguished colleague in the following words:—

"Mary Adelaide Nutting. Born in Quebec, her original impulse was toward the arts and she studied painting and music in Canadian and American schools. She gave up that career to become a member of the first class of the Johns Hopkins Training School for Nurses. Later she became Superintendent, and initiated most of the progressive policies that made that pioneer school pre-eminent. She was the first nurse to receive a chair in institutional administration in Teachers College, Columbia, where she organised a large department, training hundreds every year. Her zeal and knowledge made her conspicuous during the war, when she was appointed by President Wilson chairman of the Committee on Nursing in the Council of National Defence. She was awarded the Liberty Service medal of the National Institute of Social Sciences. She is joint-author of an authoritative History of Nursing. Her devotion, courage, faith, skill, and magnificent perseverance have made her to-day one of the most useful women in the world."

The *American Journal of Nursing* says:—

"No more fitting praise could have been bestowed upon the woman who, through a life time of exalted, self abnegating and altruistic endeavour, has to her credit so much of solid achievement in developing and standardising nursing education. Year by year the lives and the service of nurses have been enriched by Miss Nutting's wise, persistent and far-reaching efforts to make available to them the abundant contributions science, literature, history and the arts offer to nursing. Year by year the courses made available by the Department of Nursing and Health at Teachers College have been multiplied and strengthened to meet the ever increasing demands upon nurses. Through her students, Miss Nutting's lofty ideal for nurses—that of devoted and satisfying service of mind as well as of hand and of heart, based on sound and rigorous preparation—has been given to the world. Those who are proud to call themselves her "daughters," imbued with something of her courage, vision, and idealism, have taken their places in the forefront of the battle for health until, wherever nurses are, the influence of the teaching has been felt."

**THE OCTOCENTENARY OF THE FOUNDATION.\*****THE BEADLES.**

By SIR D'ARCY POWER, K.B.E.

Often in the Hospital Square, sometimes in Cheapside, more rarely in Oxford Street, a pleasant-looking official may be seen in a wide-skirted black coat with a silver badge on his right breast bearing the Hospital arms and wearing the regulation cap of black with a narrow white piping—the Hospital colours. He is one of the Hospital beadles, and he takes us straight back to the re-foundation of the Hospital, and to the days of Henry VIII. He is as much a part of the Hospital as the Clerk or the Surgeons and even more so, because he is a parish officer as well as a Hospital servant, and he came into existence when the parish of St. Bartholomew's-the-Less was established in 1547. His duties both as a Hospital official and as a parish beadle were clearly defined from the very beginning. His charge as a beadle was that—

"Your office and charge is to give attendance from time to time upon the Governors of this House, and to do such business as they shall assign to you. On all such days as the Governors of this House shall not sit in this Hospital for the affairs of the same ye shall separate and divide yourselves into the sundry parts and liberties thereof every man taking his several walk. And if in any of your walks ye shall happen to espy any person infected with any loathly grief or disease, which shall fortune to lie in any notable place of this City to the noyance and infection of the passers by and slander of this House, ye shall then give knowledge thereof to the Almoners of this Hospital that they may take such order therein as to them shall be thought meet.

"Ye shall also have a special eye and regard unto all such persons as have been cured and healed in this House that none of them counterfeit any grief or disease, neither beg within the City and liberties thereof. And if ye shall fortune to find any so doing, ye shall immediately commit him, or them, to some cage and give knowledge thereof to the Governors of this House, that they may take further order as they shall think best.

"Ye shall not haunt nor frequent the company of any poor and beggarly persons (that is to say) to drink or eat with them in any victualling house or other place, neither shall ye receive any bribe or reward of any of them, lest by occasion thereof you should winck at them, and so lewdly licence them to beg, upon pain to be dismissed this House.

"Also ye shall not suffer any sturdy or idle beggar or vagabond to beg or ask alms within this City of London or the suburbs of the same, but ye shall forthwith commit all such to ward and immediately signify the name and surname of him or them to the Alderman of that ward where ye shall apprehend any such beggar or else to the Lord Mayor that execution may be done as the law in that case provideth. This is your charge."

\*Of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, in Smithfield.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)