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EDITORIAL.

A GREAT CEREMONY.

It is fitting that, with all circumstance and honour, St. Bartholomew's Hospital should celebrate the 800th anniversary of its Foundation by Rahere, first the King's Jester, and, after a vision vouchsafed to him when in Rome, the Religious who, in accordance with the revelation he then received, founded in 1123 the great hospital which ever since has carried on its beneficent work, and of the Priory Church near by, where his effigy, clothed in the Augustinian habit, lies on the Altar Tomb within the sanctuary.

It is thus appropriate that the Celebrations should begin on Tuesday, June 5th, with a service at the Priory Church of St. Bartholomew's the Great, which has suffered much in the past from desecrating hands; but the choir, Lady Chapel and transepts have been reverently and lovingly restored, and bear witness to-day to the perfection of the work inspired by this great Augustinian monk.

One of the most interesting of the functions will be the "Solemnity" in the Hospital Quadrangle, in which Canons Regular of the Augustinian Order will take part, after which notable events in the history of the Hospital will be depicted. It should be a most impressive ceremonial. The spirit of Rahere, which at all times broods over the Hospital, as those susceptible to its influences can testify, will surely be present in a special degree at this commemoration.

The brethren and sisters of the Augustinian Order nursed the sick with devotion, if not with scientific knowledge, and it is the training in the science of nursing grafted on to this devoted service of the sick handed down by tradition from generation to generation by word of mouth, which has made the service rendered

by St. Bartholomew's nurses famous for its high quality.

True, the nursing staff of the Hospital passed through a phase affected by the general degeneration of nursing during the first half of the nineteenth century, but, on the whole, the banner of Rahere has been held aloft through the centuries, and the nursing spirit inspired by its Founder has always been found within its walls.

The Hospital, the only General Hospital in the City of London, has been closely connected with the City, and from its status as a Royal Hospital has been honoured by having a member of the Royal House as its President.

On June 5th the Lord Mayor will entertain His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, K.G., President of the Hospital, and the Delegates, at luncheon at the Mansion House; subsequently His Royal Highness will receive Addresses from the Delegates at the Guildhall.

The holding of Bartholomew Fair, which will be opened on Wednesday by the Lord Mayor represents the lighter side of the celebrations, and, historically, should prove very interesting as well as amusing; and the Tableaux in the Great Hall, presented and arranged by Sir Aston Webb, President of the Royal Academy, and a Committee of eminent Artists should not only provide a most interesting entertainment, but also do something to dispel the ignorance which obtains in regard to the history of this great institution.

A full week ends with an "At Home" by the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses to the Delegates in the Great Hall, when the members will no doubt muster strongly to play their part in this great ceremonial week and to do honour to the Founder of this historic hospital which to serve is to love, and to the Nursing Sisters and Brothers who in centuries past set the members of the League such a noble example.

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