

in that city in honour of the "Holy Ghost," and prescribed the rule of St. Augustine for the brothers in charge.

This movement spread rapidly and, by the Pope's command, Guy went to Rome when the great hospital of Santo Spirito was founded, which is still in existence. By the end of the fifteenth century, thirty hospitals had been established in Rome for the care of the sick.

The epidemics which frequently raged among the pilgrims from the west to the Holy Land, led to the foundation of hospitals in Jerusalem, the first being established at the end of the sixth century by Pope Gregory I, and afterwards restored by Charlemagne. At the time of the Crusades, various orders of chivalry were formed, which combined with military service the care of the sick, and the earliest of these was the Order of St. John.

When the first crusade reached Jerusalem in 1099, Gerhard, the superior of the pilgrims' hospital established by Maurus of Amalfi, gave the knights a new building near the Church of St. John the Baptist. He drew up the rules of the Order which became known as the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, and the movement spread rapidly. In Europe, especially in the Mediterranean ports on the route of the Crusaders, hospitals were established, and in Jerusalem alone, according to John of Wisberg, over 2,000 sick people were cared for. Thus the members of the Order rendered invaluable service to humanity at a period in the Dark Ages when Christian charity and zeal had sunk to a very low ebb.

After the conquest of Palestine by the Turks, the seat of the Order was transferred to the island of Rhodes, and subsequently to Malta, and they became known also as knights of Rhodes and of Malta. The English branch was abolished by Henry VIII, but was reorganised and revived in 1826, and still carries on its good work. Its hospitals rendered important help and its members gave invaluable assistance during the Great War, and sustained the ancient and great traditions of the venerable Order.

The French branch disappeared at the Revolution in 1789, but the Teutonic section of the Order, which developed out of the field hospital under the walls of Acre, where Count Adolf of Holsteine ministered to the sick and wounded, is still in existence.

Following the example of the Order of St. John several other societies were formed which included the Hospitallers of the Holy Spirit, the Hospitallers of St. Lazarus, who attended to the lepers, and the Hospitallers of St. John of God, whose patron founded a hospital at Granada which is still carried on, and where his relics are preserved.

During the fourteenth and the fifteenth centuries great hospitals were established in many of the principal cities in Europe. In Italy, Florence had fourteen, and Milan eleven, including the famous Ospedale Maggiore, which was founded by Duke Francesco Sforza and his wife Bianca Maria.

In England, St. Bartholomew's Hospital was founded in London by Rahère, and was followed by the Holy Cross at Winchester, established by Henry of Blois, half-brother to King Stephen, and St. Mary's Spital in 1197, by Walter Brune, a citizen of London, which at the time of the Dissolution had 180 beds for sick persons and travellers.

In 1215, Peter Bishop of Winchester founded St. Thomas' Hospital in a building on the south side of the Thames near London Bridge. Before the time of the Reformation, seventy-seven hospitals had been established in Scotland, including two in Glasgow, four in Aberdeen, and five in Edinburgh.

Some young people, nurses especially, have a very vague idea of the difference between capital and income. They fail to grasp the fact that if they spend part of their capital this year, their income will be less next year. In fact, they gaily spend salary as income year by year, and fail to acquire any capital at all.

MISS C. HUMPHREYS.

THE GIFT OF SECOND SIGHT.

It has been told me that my grandmother and great grandmother possessed the gift of second sight. This gift is not uncommon in the Western Highlands of Scotland, the home of my ancestors.

When a child, curious experiences were mine in the way of premonitions, and when of very tender years I endured many minor punishments for making people uncomfortable before I learnt to keep the premonitions to myself.

It is said, I believe, that the more one fights against the evil gift of second sight the more it happily departs. It was so in my case. Premonitions seldom trouble me now, but there have been marked exceptions—here is one:—

Many years ago I nursed a very old lady in a very charming house, in which were many rare pieces of antique furniture. In my bedroom stood an old oak chest. From the very first this chest worried me. I had evil dreams about it, I woke up at nights feeling that horrible happenings were associated with it. The effect on me was so marked, and I felt I could so ill afford to lose my night's sleep, I determined to get it out of my room. But how? The patient's husband was a frail old man, I could not worry him over what he would naturally consider nightmarishness. The housekeeper might think me eccentric in the extreme if I suggested a chest's removal simply because I dreamt about it!

I slept at the end of a long corridor, and it occurred to me I could put the disturber of my rest outside the room at night, and lift it back in the morning. This I did, but restless nights were still disconcertingly rare. At length I plucked up my courage and carried the chest into the next corridor, and then I had peace.

In time it got to this, I left the chest where it was, as it was so heavy to move, and nothing was said.

I disliked this beautiful piece of oak so intensely that whenever I passed it, I gave it a childish vindictive thump. It is difficult to adequately describe the feeling of repulsion I had towards it.

One day the old gentleman, unnoticed by me in the corridor, saw me thump his oak chest, and that evening during dinner he asked me if I usually knocked it in that irritated way and why? He was so courteous and kind and seemed so really interested, I told him all about my queer experiences at night.

I wondered why he did not scoff, but was on the contrary most sympathetic, but on the day I left my case he told me the history of the chest with the request that I should not tell his wife, as she was very nervous.

It seems that there was a story connected with it—a gruesome story. An old lady had been done to death and her body had been hidden away in pieces inside the disturber of my dreams for months before it was discovered.

The murder must have been two centuries old, but its history was authentic. It seems that no one had ever been troubled by any premonitions of evil about it until I slept in that room.

The old man attributed this happening to perhaps inherited second sight, and he must have been right.

It is many years since this dear old couple passed over, and who now inherits the chest I know not.

It would be interesting to know if many private nurses have had my experience of absolute repulsion towards definite pieces of furniture.

LOCHIEL.

A Nursing Homes (Registration) Bill has been introduced into the House of Commons by Mrs. Hilton Philipson. Amongst its supporters is Mr. Gerald Hirst.

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