

Then followed the Bidding Prayer spoken from the pulpit by the Archbishop, of which the following words are a part:—

"Ye shall pray for the whole state of Christ's Holy Catholic Church; Ye shall pray for the Universities of this land and for all Schools and Colleges of sound learning and religious education; for all Hospitals for the care and healing of the sick, and in this place especially for the ancient foundation of St. Thomas the Martyr of Canterbury, for all those who hold office herein, and all its members, that their labours may bear fruit in goodness of life, in all true learning and in pure service."

THE ADDRESS.

The Archbishop said that we commemorated that day, the first Sunday after the Anniversary of her birth, the illustrious woman who honoured their school, with which the unceasing work of St. Thomas's Hospital was inseparably connected.

It was difficult to say anything fresh about Florence Nightingale, but one asked oneself what were her outstanding qualities? How came it that she defied the traditions and conventions of her time and devoted herself to nursing? How came it, when she reached the Crimea, that she was able to overthrow as with a scourge existing conditions? How came it that this very solitary woman was able to bend Ministers of State to her will?

She had great gifts. A clear and strong intellect, incisive vigour of speech and writing, a power of attracting all sorts of men and women, and a forceful personality. And she had three great qualities:—

(1) The force of her compassion. From her girlhood she was haunted and oppressed by the hidden misery of the world. And there was gentleness in her compassion, though her compassion was not so much feeling as fire—God made His minister a flaming fire.

(2) She had a strong sense of vocation. She never doubted that God had called her to this service, and He sustained her. She had a deep sense of responsibility and laboured to make herself worthy.

(3) Communion with God, the reality and nearness of God were very real to her. She believed that God was revealed in His laws, and that neglect of these was defiance of God.

How was it possible to follow in her footsteps? Keep a place for compassion, said the Archbishop. Do not regard patients merely as cases, as numbers. Remember that humanity lives in circumstances of great strain. But never allow compassion to become sentimental. It need not be expressed, but the instinct of the patient will discern behind the skill of the nurse the compassion of the human heart.

Keep alive the sense of vocation. Florence Nightingale was always insisting on this in regard to nursing. She also wrote enthusiastically on the delight of administration.

Lastly, try to keep your own communion with God, in the daily combat to win the victory for the Laws of Health.

This woman of masterful strength, Florence Nightingale, found this communion, in the quiet of her own room, indispensable.

If these qualities characterise the nurse of to-day, the Lamp lit by this great woman will be kept burning with a true and steadfast light.

The singing of the hymn, "How bright these glorious spirits shine," followed the Archbishop's Address, and then the Thanksgiving, beginning:—

We praise and bless Thy Holy Name, O Lord, for the life and example of Florence Nightingale, Founder of this Training School, and all other Thy servants members of this School, who are departed hence from us with the sign of faith, and now do rest in the sleep of peace.

Grant them, we beseech Thee Thy mercy and everlasting peace.

This memorable service concluded with the Te Deum, the National Anthem, and a very special Blessing by the Archbishop, which must have remained with, fortified and inspired many of the nurses present as they passed from their quiet chapel to the routine and bustle of the busy wards of the hospital.

M. B.

THE ANTI-RHEUMATISM CAMPAIGN.

SUCCESS OF THE RED CROSS CLINIC.

Excellent results have been obtained at the British Red Cross Society's Rheumatism Clinic, Peto Place, Marylebone Road, N.W.1, according to a report for last year just issued officially.

According to an analysis prepared by the Lady Almoner, of 229 patients, referred to the Clinic by Approved Societies, 41 per cent. of men and 55 per cent. of women were able to continue at their work throughout treatment. A further 29 per cent. of men and 25 per cent. of women were able to resume their normal work as the result of treatment. Thus, on the completion of treatment, a total of 70 per cent. of men and 80 per cent. of women had sufficiently improved to be able to follow their usual occupation.

Of the remaining cases a number were suffering from an advanced form of rheumatism, and it was not anticipated that treatment would be more than palliative.

Without being unduly optimistic, says the Medical Board, we hold that these figures show that the Clinic is fulfilling a great need, and its work is likely to become increasingly valuable as greater advantage is taken of the facilities which the Clinic offers for the treatment of rheumatism in its earliest stages.

For the first five months the work at the Clinic, which was opened by the Queen in February, 1930, was largely experimental. It was new, and had therefore, to feel its way. During this period, numerous difficulties in connection with the arrangement of rooms, apparatus and staff were met and overcome. As a result of this experience, the Clinic was closed for the month of August, and extensive alterations made to rooms, and additions made to staff and equipment. The average weekly attendance, which in June was approximately 740, rose in October to over a thousand. For the same two periods, the average attendances of private patients were approximately 134 and 213 respectively. Since September 1st the maximum capacity of the Clinic has been 450 patients per day.

In a foreword to the report Sir Arthur Stanley commends the Clinic for the research work it is doing to the sympathies—and purses—of all who are interested in the prevention, as well as the cure, of rheumatism.

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