

WALSALL HONOURS SISTER DORA'S MEMORY.

"Get leave to work

In this World—'tis the best you get at all."

Walsall Honours Sister Dora's Memory. How this announcement in the Press recalled the heroine worship of our youth! Joan of Arc, Florence Nightingale, Sister Dora, and, as time goes on, the greatness of these women shines with ever increased lustre.

Joan of Arc has been canonised, Florence Nightingale proclaimed a Stateswoman of discerning vision, demonstrating health as the foundation of the greatness, wealth and happiness of Peoples; and Sister Dora, of the Great Heart, has proved the potency of love—and is worshipped as warmly in Walsall to-day as she was sixty years ago. In life these women energised their surroundings and that spiritual essence is still in vigorous operation.

The life's work of Dorothy Wyndlow Pattison was associated with the Cottage Hospital at Walsall, where she undertook the superintendence of the nursing in 1865, and continued in that office, until broken in health by the strain of her strenuous life, she died heroically and alone a few weeks after the opening of the new building in 1878. Great progress has been made since those days, and Walsall now has a fine up-to-date modern Hospital.

Recently the Mayor of Walsall, Councillor W. D. Forsyth, wearing his Chain of Office, in commemoration of Sister Dora's birthday, delivered an address eloquent of tender affection, and Mrs. Forsyth laid a lovely floral tribute of lilies and palms at the foot of the Sister Dora Statue on Walsall Bridge. Many leading citizens were present.

Nurses from the Walsall General Hospital and the Manor Hospital were present in their blue cloaks and white caps. Miss Hart, Matron of the Manor Hospital, attended in uniform, and Miss Dace, Assistant Matron of the General Hospital, was present in the absence of Miss Strachan (Matron), who was indisposed. Miss Holloway (superintendent of the Walsall Victoria Nursing Institute) attended.

"Reverence for the memory of Sister Dora increases year by year," said the Mayor, after he had laid a chaplet of laurels and lilies of the valley and carnations at the foot of the statue. "It is not only in Walsall here that her memory is cherished, but we frequently have enquiries concerning her from abroad. We shall never forget her, and I hope our children will never forget."

Flowers were also placed on the grave of Sister Dora in Queen Street Cemetery, and around the model of the statue which stands outside the Mayor's Parlour in the Council House.

In the crowd was one who bore a treasured possession. It was Sister Dora's prayer-book, and with pride it was shown to the Mayor and Mayoress. "My mother was cook at the Walsall Cottage Hospital where Sister Dora was the Sister in charge," said the lady, Miss Mary Fox, of 127a, Stafford Street, "and Sister Dora gave her this prayer-book, with her name on the fly leaf on my mother's wedding day, October 19th, 1878. About six weeks later Sister Dora died. My mother is now eighty years of age, and she has often told me she would rather want for bread than part with this book."

We can well believe it.

The Mayor, on hearing we proposed to report the ceremony, in which he took the leading part, most kindly sent us a copy of the sixty-fifth Annual Report, 1928, of the Walsall General Hospital, containing photographs of Sister Dora on the cover, of the statue, and of the presentation of a pony and carriage by railwaymen to Sister Dora on June 20th, 1873.

Councillor Forsyth writes:—"In my opinion the love and reverence for the memory of Sister Dora increases in Walsall year by year as her self-denying

work becomes more widely known. As a fact, we have many enquiries for information about Sister Dora from all parts of the world.

"It will be of interest to you to know that Sister Dora was an intimate friend of Florence Nightingale (the heroine of the Crimean War, and one who did more than anyone else to put the nursing profession in its proper place as one of the leading professions engaged



SISTER DORA
The Figure on the Monument.

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