

Miss Fairley said that before the meeting closed she would like to thank the Chairman and the members of the Committee for the very wonderful arrangements made for "Nightingale Week." She would be very sorry to lose this opportunity of very affectionately expressing her sincere regard for the labour of the Committee in this connection. Her remarks were heartily endorsed by the Meeting.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick hoped that the International delegates would take full reports to their National Associations of all they had heard and seen during "Nightingale Week," that it had really been an inspiring time to those who had had the pleasure of welcoming so many delightful colleagues to London, and she was glad to know they were so favourably impressed with the Conference and their reception in dear old England.

The Meeting then terminated.

THE RECEPTION AT ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S

Miss Helen Dey, R.R.C., and the Sisters of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, invited the International Guests to pay a visit and take tea with them in the Great Hall of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, on Friday, July 8th, and for those who accepted the invitation an afternoon full of historic interest was enjoyed.

A visit to the Priory Church of St. Bartholomew-the-Great, built by Rahere (the founder of the beautiful old hospital), which contains his tomb—the fine new wards and operating theatres, the Isla Stewart Memorial Library, to say nothing of a sumptuous tea in the Great Hall, well occupied several hours.

With his usual kindness Sir D'Arcy Power—associated with the historic foundations for so many years—most kindly conducted the guests to the wonderful old Church of

St. Bartholomew-the-Great, and placed his invaluable knowledge of the life of Rahere, its founder, at their disposal. The history of the Priory Church and Hospital founded eight hundred years ago constitute a romance unequalled in the records of London's monuments.

We were shown how after neglect and decay the Church had been splendidly restored through the personal interest of a few pious men and the alms of the righteous.

Rahere's tomb is in the north wall of the chancel. It consists of a highly-wrought stonework screen, or, rather, canopy and finely groined roof, beneath which is the sarcophagus; and on this the effigy of Rahere in black robes is seen, extended at full length, with shaven crown, and hands elevated as if in prayer. At his feet, on a cloud, stands an angel, crowned, holding the arms of the Priory; while by him kneel two monks, habited like Rahere in

black robes, each with a Bible in his hands, open at the 51st chapter of the Prophet Isaiah. The third verse of the chapter which is inscribed on the little stone tablets is significant of the work which Rahere did when he covered the marshy ground of Smithfield or Smoothfield with beautiful buildings for the praise and worship of God and good deeds to men. "He will comfort all her waste places; and He will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving and the voice of melody." On the front of the sarcophagus are the four following shields of arms:—

London,
England,
The Priory,

Gules, a bend between two martlets.

And round the ledge is the inscription:—

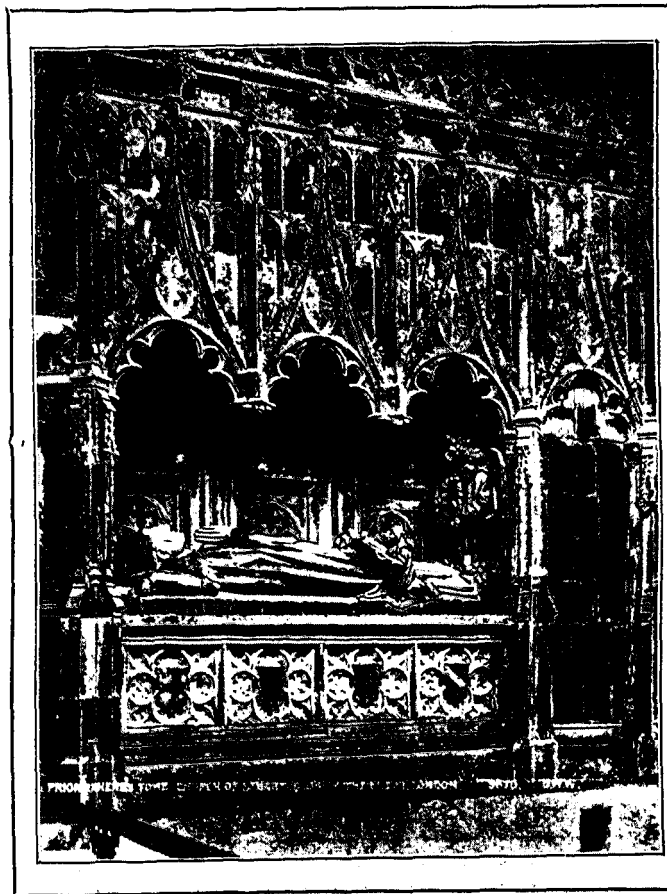
"Hic jacet Raherus primus Canonicus et primus prior hujus ecclesie."

Sir D'Arcy sat in the aisle opposite the guests and recounted much of the romance of the life of Rahere, in which they were soon absorbed.

Having said a reluctant good-bye to Sir D'Arcy Power, we left the Church by the restored Tudor Gate House, which was the principal entrance to the Church several hundred years ago—and from the windows of which "Bloody Mary" witnessed the burning of martyrs in Smithfield.

Then we inspected the new surgical block with all its up-to-date appliances, which would need an article to itself. We visited the beautiful Memorial Library dedicated to Miss Isla Stewart—where the nurses can study in peace. The sun lit up the fine bronze plaque over the fireplace—"Matron to the life"—and recalled all she had accomplished during her strenuous, far-seeing term of office and her world-wide sympathies.

The Great Hall, so finely proportioned, lends itself to hospitality, and here the Sisters, looking so charmingly fresh and neat in their becoming uniforms, were gathered to welcome us, and another of those "lovely strawberries and cream teas" enticed us to be seated and enjoy the dainty fare. King Henry VIII at one end and King Edward VII at the other reminded us of the close association of the Kings of England with the hospital since the granting of its first Charter to the monk Rahere by Henry I, in 1123, and that it is the senior royal hospital in the Empire. And as we crossed the quadrangle—surrounded by the beautiful old buildings, with the sick and convalescent reclining around the fountain—we realised as we have done this fifty years, how happy is the fate of nurses of all grades whose lives are passed within its magic circle.



THE TOMB OF RAHERE,
St. Bartholomew-the-Great.

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