

there's a great "to do" for about a week. Then its all over for another year. On Easter Day in Paoking we have a special Service of Witness by the Church Members in the Cemetery about three miles outside the town. As many as can walk out to the Cemetery—not an easy task for some of our older women members with their tiny bound feet—but this is their Witness to the meaning of Easter in their lives, not burning paper houses and money or wailing and weeping, but singing the songs of the Risen Christ who lives in their hearts and lives all the year round, comforting them in sorrow, giving them endurance and patience in their persecution, filling their hearts with a glad hope of Eternal life beyond the grave.

Sister MAUD M. MILLICAN,  
Methodist Mission Hospital,  
Paoking, Hunan, China.

## THE GREAT VICTORIANS.\*

EDITED BY H. J. MASSINGHAM AND HUGH MASSINGHAM.

40 Great Victorians by 40 Great Thinkers.

This is a most interesting book, though of necessity the lives of the men and women depicted are short. It gives us many sidelights on characters that were not known or appreciated by the ordinary run of people. On looking through the list of names you are at once struck by the fact that the Greatest Victorian—Queen Victoria—has no place. You wonder why!

Out of the forty persons portrayed four are women, the one who will be the greatest interest to the Nursing Profession is Florence Nightingale by Laurence Housman. This is a very fresh and different rendering of Miss Nightingale's character. Mr. Housman draws a contrast between Queen Victoria and Miss Nightingale, and points out how they both had a power of set purpose and initiative which produced revolutionary results. It was through Miss Nightingale's influence and great driving force that she will go down to the ages yet unborn as the pioneer in women's career.

As far as the general public was concerned, Miss Nightingale died after the Crimea as a "Ministering Angel," and it was not until her life was published, written by the late Sir E. Cook, that her real character was known. Mr. Housman even makes her great, generous and tremendous force of character even more felt. Miss Nightingale wrote a three-volume work called "Suggestions for Thought"; though printed, it was only circulated privately. Mr. Housman quotes from one of these volumes, "Cassandra," which was a sub-title given to one of the three volumes, which no doubt, as the author points out, "the women's case" was often Miss Nightingale's own past that she remembered.

Miss Nightingale, though an invalid and confined to her room, "she invented an economy of technique suited to her condition," and the writer points out how in this way she was able to get more work accomplished than if she had been a vigorous and active member of society. She had selected a small band of workers, and through them she was able to bring great influence to bear on Royal Commissions, Ministers and Departmental acts of Government, perhaps more than anyone else that one could name. Miss Nightingale gave her great organising powers freely to the public services, Hospitals, Nursing, Barracks and Sanitation. "The Commander of Genius" was ruthless to friends as to foes; but nevertheless she was the "Angel of Mercy," and without her great popularity it might have been impossible for her to have promoted the great reforms that she did. Let all nurses pay homage to her wonderful character, and her great love of humanity.

A. M. B.

\* Ivor Nicholson & Watson, Ltd., 44, Essex Street, W.C. 8/6.

## THE HISTORY OF ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.

VOLUME I.

FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES UNTIL A.D. 1600.\*

By F. G. PARSONS, D.Sc., F.R.C.S., F.S.A.

(Concluded from page 82.)

### THE CLOSURE AND REFOUNDING.

There is evidence to show that St. Thomas's Hospital "like most of the rest of the ecclesiastical spoil was frittered away by Henry in gifts or sales to courtiers. Probably Cromwell had some definite scheme of a political nature for dealing with this rich harvest, but he was attainted and executed in 1540, the year in which the hospital was surrendered."

From 1545 the parish church of St. Thomas near by and also the hospital appear to have been dedicated to St. Thomas the Apostle. "Perhaps ecclesiastically," says the author, "the church still belonged to the martyr, and perhaps may do so now, but legally, and in the eye of the State, there can be little doubt that the Apostle claimed it. The matter is of greater interest because our present hospital chapel is still regarded by many as dedicated to Becket, and special prayers are offered in his name on his day; but, since the chapel has never been consecrated, it seems optional to take either view until property is left to the church or chapel of St. Thomas the Martyr, and the legacy contested; then, perhaps, the matter might be settled to the great content of the lawyers arguing the case."

In January 1547, Henry VIII died, and during the greater part of Edward VI's reign, St. Thomas's seems to have been almost derelict, with Sir John Gate as its owner.

In 1553 Christ's Hospital, Bridewell, and the Hospital of St. Thomas the Apostle were incorporated as the three Royal Hospitals, and although St. Thomas's has never had a Royal Charter of its own, it was allowed to assume armorial bearings which it shares with Christ's Hospital and Bridewell to-day.

It was at this time enacted that the mayor, commonalty and citizens of the city of London and their successors "shall be named, called, and designated Governors of the said hospitals . . . and shall be hereafter, in deed, fact and name, one body corporate and politic of themselves for ever, by the name of the Governors of the possessions, revenues, and goods of the hospitals of Edward VI., King of England, of Christ, Bridewell and St. Thomas the Apostle, incorporated and erected."

It is pointed out as important that the old hospital of St. Thomas and its lands, or what were left of them, were not given to the City by Edward VI, as many people believe, but that the City owned the site of the old hospital in Southwark not by gift, but by purchase. Until 1552 the hospital stood "voyde and empty" when the City decided to repair it.

In the later years of Edward VI's reign "the churches, streets and lanes were filled daily 'with a number of loathsome lazars, botches, and sores,' and it is to the honour of Bishop Ridley that he 'in a sermon before the King's Majesty did so zealously move the King to have a care for the relief of the poor that the King after the end of the sermon sent for the Bishop and conferred with him what course might best be taken for the relief of the poor.'"

Amongst the officials whom the King willed should be maintained at the new St. Thomas's were "two women or sisters to attend to the poor and wash their clothes when necessary and convenient."

"At first," we read, "there were only three Royal Hospitals, Bridewell, Christ's, and St. Thomas's, but later their number was increased to five, St. Mary's of Bethlem

\* Methuen & Co., Ltd., 36, Essex Street, W.C. 10/6.

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