

wife of Henry I, who granted a Charter and lands in West Smithfield to Rahere, Founder of the Church and Hospital of St. Bartholomew's. Rahere, formerly a courtier and afterwards a monk, appointed four Sisters of the Augustinian Order at the Hospital. He felt sure that any Sisters appointed by Rahere would be good-looking, witty, and good-humoured; although he was a monk, he would play jokes to the end of his life; therefore they must have had some sense of fun, they must have been musical and sung hymns which it was traditionally reported that he had composed, and have been chosen partly for their voices.

What inducements had Rahere to offer these ladies who had probably been at Court, and Queen Matilda although she had died before Rahere had founded his hospital, must have had something to do with their upbringing? Well there was a nice church which had the benediction of the Pope and the Bishop. It had two side chapels and a tower, still to be seen, and they should have a private entrance. Then they had a *dortoir*, usually called in old manuscripts a "daughter." He would tell them that they were going to have good cases, and babies—oh, yes, babies, which if born in the hospital had to be cared for until they were old enough to be apprenticed. Then, outside the hospital gates, there were horse races, and the gallows, where executions took place in full view of their quarters. No mean attractions to these Sisters in the grand old hospital founded by Rahere in 1123. He had much pleasure in proposing the toast "Success to the Three Royal Foundations."

St. Thomas's Hospital.

St. Thomas's Hospital was proposed by Dr. F. Gymer Parsons, D.Sc. Lond., F.R.C.S., author of the "History of St. Thomas's Hospital," who, speaking in relation to that hospital, said that if one walked by the wall round Southwark Cathedral one was walking on the site of the Priory of St. Mary Overie, or St. Mary the Virgin.

When the stones of an earlier church were laid St. Thomas of Canterbury was still alive. This was preceded by a still older church which concerned itself with the souls of Londoners, not with their bodies. Bishop Gifford persuaded Brothers of the Order of St. Augustine of Hippo to undertake its care, and that of the infirmary connected with it, together with the Sisters of St. Mary's Priory. The latter were sure to have had a "daughter" like those of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Archbishop Becket, who is said to have added to the Infirmary of St. Mary's, had a soft place in his heart for the Augustinian Canons, and was wearing the habit of the Order when he met with his death in Canterbury Cathedral. It was rather wonderful that St. Bartholomew's and St. Thomas's were the only City hospitals for 600 years. Then St. Thomas's had a baby girl—little Guy's—and then many hospitals sprang up, but their work was just as good as that of those who had been at it for 800 years.

In regard to the relative ages of St. Bartholomew's and St. Thomas's, there need be no rivalry. Both were over 800 years old, so a few years more or less did not matter. They had always had friendly relations. Once St. Bartholomew's lent St. Thomas's £100. It had been honourably paid back. Concluding, the speaker expressed the hope that St. Bartholomew's Hospital, St. Thomas's Hospital and St. Mary's (Bethlem) would go on for another eight hundred years and more.

Bethlem Royal Hospital.

Dr. J. G. Porter Phillips, M.D., F.R.C.P., Physician Superintendent at Bethlem Royal Hospital, said there seemed to be a doubt as to which was the oldest hospital. He claimed the connection of Bethlem with Basil, with Constantine, who founded 330 Basilicas, with Simon Fitzmary, who founded the Priory of Bethlem for the mentally unsound which

was carried on by monks. This hospital was located near the site of the present Liverpool Street Station. In 1675 a new hospital was built in Moorfields. Hogarth's famous pictures depicted the terrible sights to be seen at this time when the mentally unsound were regarded as persons to be shunned, and the nursing was certainly not as good as might be.

The third hospital was built in 1815 in the Lambeth Road, and its dome was familiar to many, as it could be seen from the main line of the Southern Railway, and portions of that Hospital were still standing. It was in many respects very well suited for the purpose; however, a few years ago it was decided to move it to Monk's Orchard, and there the present hospital had been erected, and the work was now carried on there.

The nursing of mental patients in the past was a great difficulty. In 1840 the Royal Medico-Psychological Association was founded and later established examinations for nurses, and its certificate had been accepted as evidence of proficiency. The General Nursing Council now conducted examinations for Mental Nurses.

The speaker expressed the view that all nurses, whether they intended to take up mental nursing or not, should during their training receive instruction in this important branch, and have a knowledge of psychology, an opinion which was received with applause. He hoped that all present would at some time pay a visit to the Royal Bethlem Hospital at Monk's Orchard, and see the work carried on there. He emphasised the importance to patients of first impressions, and explained that at Bethlem there were a number of buildings. New patients were received in the Administrative Block, and a careful examination was made of the case, after which the patient was sent to the unit most suitable to him, and did not come into contact with cases which were undesirable for him to meet.

Dr. Phillips concluded by supporting the toast "Success to the Three Royal Foundations."

On rising to give the toast, the Chairman said: Ladies and Gentlemen, the Toast is "Success to the Three Royal Foundations, St. Bartholomew's Hospital coupled with the names of Sir D'Arcy Power and Miss Helen Dey, Matron of the Hospital, St. Thomas's Hospital coupled with the names of Professor Parsons, Historian of the Hospital, and Mrs. O'Malley, authoress of the 'Life of Florence Nightingale,' and the Bethlem Royal Hospital coupled with the names of Dr. Porter Phillips, Physician Superintendent, and Miss S. C. Hearder, Matron of the Hospital."

The Toast was honoured with acclamation.

SUCCESS TO THE HISTORY SECTION OF THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

Miss Le Geyt, who proposed the Toast "Success to the History Section of the British College of Nurses," said that she counted it a privilege to be allowed to speak of the movement by The British College of Nurses to collect data and records of the work of those who had been outstanding figures in the long history of nursing.

Was there, she asked, any other profession so ageless in tradition and yet so nameless in the written records of its achievements?

The idea of founding the History Section materialised in 1929; later a Standing Committee was appointed to organise "The History of Nursing Section," and energy and unsparing efforts upon the part of its Chair, Miss Bushby, had had wonderful results. Typical of all movements instituted by women, money was the last consideration. In truth this History Section owed its greatest debt to generous personal gifts from nurses, many of whom had become deeply interested in its valuable work.

With one unique gift the College became the proud possessor of a very lovely book, a first edition of "Flora's

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