

demonstrations in taking care of the patients in their homes as well as First Aid Work. They obtain their practical experience during a period of ten months in different public health and welfare organisations of Brussels. Students who successfully pass the final examination obtain the State Diploma in Public Health Nursing.

The School, which is undergoing certain transformations, has at present only twelve students in the third year of training. When it is finally installed in the University Hospital of St. Peter, it will be able to accommodate twenty-five students.

The staff includes a Director (a nurse), and a Nurse-Instructor responsible for the management, instruction and supervision of the different courses. They insure the coaching of students in lectures given by specialists (doctors, lawyers, sociologists, public health nurses, etc.).

The cost of the Course is 3,750 frs. Scholarships may be awarded to students who promise to remain in the service of the Poor Relief of Brussels for a period of at least two years after the completion of their course. Each student receives an allowance of 150 frs. per month to cover daily fares.

THE PASSING BELL.

ANDREW STARK CURRIE, M.D.

It is with very deep regret that we have received intimation of the death, on February 19th, after a short illness, of Dr. Andrew Stark Currie, who has been for very many years a Member of the Royal British Nurses' Association and has proved himself a most loyal friend to the nurses. Dr. Currie was well known to Members of the Association for he very frequently lectured at Headquarters, and nurses speak still of the wonderful address which he gave not so very long ago on "St. Luke the Beloved Physician." We can remember how many traditions and how many discoveries of recent times he brought up out of the realm of literature to shed light on the life of the Evangelist. It was indeed a memorable afternoon, for he carried us back into the atmosphere of ancient Greece and other countries where the "Beloved Physician" had travelled.

Dr. Currie was not only a man of many friendships but he was a classical scholar, a great linguist, and a master of medical history. He was Chevalier of the Crown of Italy, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine, late Orator and President of the Hunterian Society, and author and translator of important medical works. Not long ago we heard Dr. Currie lecture before the History Section of the Royal Society of Medicine and listened afterwards to Sir Bernard Spilsbury and eminent professors of medicine and anatomy who took part in the discussion subsequent to this lecture. All of them paid tribute to Dr. Currie's knowledge of the historical matters on which he spoke. Furthermore, he played some part in the making of nursing history, for during the later years of the struggle to secure the passage of the Bills for the State Registration of Nurses, he did much to secure support from Members of both Houses of Parliament for those measures. At the funeral service at St. Mark's Church, Marylebone, the Association was represented by Miss Beatrice Kent.

SISTER MISS EILEEN LOUISE BURR-BRYAN.

It is with deep regret we have to announce the death of Sister Miss Eileen Louise Burr-Bryan, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, on January 29th, 1933, at Moascar, Ismailia, Egypt, after a very short illness.

Miss Burr-Bryan received her general training at King's College Hospital, afterwards taking the C.M.B. qualifications.

She was appointed, as Staff Nurse, to Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service in July, 1923, being promoted to the rank of Sister three years later.

THE HISTORY OF ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.

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

"The History of St. Thomas's Hospital" (Vol. I) by Dr. F. G. Parsons, D.Sc., F.R.C.S., F.S.A., gives to us for the first time many interesting facts from a careful study of old documents, notably the Chartulary of St. Thomas's Hospital among the Manuscripts by Stow, the Elizabethan historian, in the British Museum; the minutes of the Governors' Court from the days of Queen Mary to the present time, letters from Kings and Queens and great Statesmen, old accounts and charges to officials preserved in the strong room of the hospital, and other papers.

It is dedicated, by special permission, to His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, in memory of the fifty years during which he has been President of St. Thomas's Hospital.

The book is welcome. How many members of the public, how many, even, of the medical and nursing professions could say when this great institution was founded, where it was situated and to whom it was dedicated?

Originally a part of the Priory of St. Mary Overie, or St. Mary the Virgin of Southwark, it is sometimes said that the beginning of St. Thomas's Hospital dates from the separation of the two. But even before this time the infirmary of this religious house was used for the relief of the sick and suffering, which its position outside the great southern entry to the City of London called upon it to undertake, and which proved too small for the work thrown upon it, so that it is said that it was added to by Thomas à Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, during his lifetime, and from the time of Becket's canonization in 1173 this part of the Priory was known as St. Thomas's Spital.

The story of the Legend of Mary Overie must be studied by those who seek for the kernel of truth hidden in most legends.

At first in the great diocese of Winchester, it was in 1106, forty years after the Conquest, that William Gifford in the seventh year of Henry I built Winchester House on Bankside. He was the first Bishop of Winchester who felt the need of living near London, since London was now the centre of the Kingdom. He does not, says the author, appear to have been greatly impressed by his neighbours, the collegiate priests, for Stow tells us that he replaced them by Canons Regular or Black Canons of the Order of St. Augustine of Hippo, with a prior at their head.

The Order of Augustine Canons was one which was specially adapted to minister to the sick because its rule was so much lighter in spiritual duties than was that of the monks, and the opening clause of the rule of St. Augustine, their founder, runs: "Before all things, dearest brethren, let God be loved, then your neighbour." Its brethren, says Dr. Parsons, seem indeed to have foreshadowed the grey or ministering friars whom St. Francis of Assisi founded in 1209; and there can be little doubt that as soon as they were established at Southwark, their infirmary became a hospital for the sick and infirm who passed along the great highway to London.

Owing to its position close to the Bridge, where all the great southern roads converged upon London, the medical and surgical practice of the Priory of St. Mary in Southwark must have been very great, even in Stephen's time, and there can, says the author, be no doubt that our predecessors saw a good deal more of diseases like typhus, plague and leprosy than we do in London to-day.

Medicine after the Conquest.

"Medicine for some years after the Conquest consisted

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

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)