

translation of the Bible into English in 1537, in folio and quarto form, by James Nicholson, and dedicated to Jane Seymour, and about the same time the painting of stained-glass windows for the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge. At that time, we are told, it was no unusual thing for painting to be done in religious houses.

The entries which deal with the time just before the dissolution of the religious houses are of considerable interest. "It must be understood that Henry VIII, in the earlier years of his reign, was a most staunch supporter of the Pope and Romish Church." How many people at present, we wonder, know how our Sovereigns gained the title of "Fidei defensor"? "It was in the eighth year of his reign that Martin Luther attacked the Church on the subject of 'indulgences' . . . Henry, in 1521, wrote a book in support of indulgences, and was given the title of 'Fidei defensor' by Pope Leo X in consequence."

The reasons leading later to the Reformation, did not reflect credit on its organisers—the desire of Henry VIII for the annulment of his marriage with Catharine of Aragon, so that he might marry Anne Boleyn, led him to approve the "supremely daring plan" of Thomas Cromwell that he should declare himself the head of the English Church and decree his own annulment of marriage, and "the King soon realised as a further possibility of the scheme, that if he were the head of the Church it followed that he could decide what should be done with its money; and he began to look with greedy eyes upon the enormous wealth of the religious houses."

Admittedly reforms were needed, but reform from within—not without, "indeed a conservative reformation of the Romish Church as a whole seems to have been the object for which Wolsey was striving, and the saintly Sir Thomas More, who opposed the annulment (of Henry's marriage) and had dreamed of a peaceful religious reformation in accordance with the religious ideas of Erasmus and Colet, was beheaded in 1535 at the instigation of Anne Boleyn."

Thomas Cromwell and others were appointed Commissioners to hold a visitation of all churches and monasteries, and "his deputy for Kent, Sussex and Surrey, Richard Layton, in September, 1535, wrote him a letter saying that he intended to finish his round of visitations with the 'bawdy' hospital of St. Thomas in Southwark. Since he does not use any adjectives of this kind about other places which he had visited, or intended to visit, I fear," says the author, "that, about this time, our hospital really had rather a bad reputation."

It was in 1538 that "Henry decanonized Thomas Becket and declared that, so far from being a martyr, he was a traitor to his Lord the King. . . ."

"There can be little doubt, however, that the practical point which appealed to Henry and his man Cromwell, was that by declaring Becket a traitor and no saint, they were able to seize the gold and jewels which decorated his shrine at Canterbury, a thing which otherwise even they would not have dared to risk."

"On December 23rd, 1539 'Thomas Thurleby, clerk' was presented to the Mastership of the 'Hospital of Thomas Bekket in Southwark, commonly called Thomas Bekket's Spytell vice Richard Mabot deceased.' This presentation was probably an arrangement to facilitate the handing over of the hospital, which took place about a fortnight later. Soon after he had conducted the quiet surrender of the hospital Henry made him the first and only Bishop of Westminster, and later he became successively Bishop of Norwich and of Ely. That he was able to accommodate himself to whatever form of religious belief was prevalent at the time is shown by the fact that he held his appointments without interruption during the religious changes of Henry VIII, Edward VI and Mary. He was associated with Bonner in sentencing his old friend Cranmer to the stake, but must have been once more converted to

the Reformed Faith in Elizabeth's reign as he was buried in Lambeth Church."

In 1540 the hospital was closed, and "all that was bad about it came to an end; but so did all that was good, and large numbers of helpless, sick poor were left unrelieved in the streets; moreover the brethren and sisters and all the lay helpers went to swell the mass of destitute humanity for whom no employment could be found."

MARGARET BREAY.

(To be concluded.)

## THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

The King, accompanied by The Queen, hopes to open the new Freemasons' Hospital at Ravenscourt Park, Hammer-smith, in July.

The Duchess of York, who is to visit Aberdare on April 25th to open the reconstructed town hospital, has expressed a desire to visit a colliery when the miners are being raised at the end of a working shift.

The 200th anniversary of the founding of St. George's Hospital at Hyde Park Corner is being celebrated this year. There will be a Thanksgiving Service at St. Paul's, Knights-bridge, at which the Bishop of London will preach the sermon; and a dinner at the Mansion House, by permission of the Lord Mayor.

Dr. H. O. West, Medical Superintendent of the Archway Hospital, Highgate, has been appointed Medical Superintendent of St. Giles Hospital, Camberwell.

Dr. Ivor Lewis, Medical Superintendent of the Plymouth City Hospital, has been appointed Medical Superintendent of the North Middlesex Hospital, in succession to the late Lieutenant-Colonel Spencer Mort.

Mr. George Watts, Assistant Secretary at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, has been appointed Secretary of the Central London Ophthalmic Hospital, Judd Street, in succession to Mr. H. R. S. Druce, who is retiring after thirty years' service.

A bequest totalling about £100,000 has been left to the Cottage Hospital at Melksham, Wilts., under the will of Mrs. Ludlow Bruges, who died in Jersey last July.

Mrs. Ludlow Bruges once lived near Melksham, and took an interest in the hospital.

Mr. John A. Dewar has recently been elected President of the Gordon Hospital in succession to Lord and Lady Aberdeen and Temair, who have for many years been joint-presidents of the hospital.

Six children, who all played with the same toy trumpet at a party at Woburn, Bedfordshire, have, according to a report by the Medical Officer to the Ampthill Rural District Council, developed diphtheria.

## JOINT SURVEY OF WORK.

The London Voluntary Hospitals Committee and the London County Council have co-operated in the preparation of a joint survey of voluntary and municipal medical and surgical services in hospitals, clinics, and dispensaries in the County of London. The survey, which is in two parts, was arranged with a view to a greater degree of co-operation between the voluntary and municipal systems, and it shows the size and variety of each in 1931.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)