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THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

THE CECILIA LIDDIATT MEMORIAL.

The following further subscriptions have been received for the Cecilia Liddiatt Memorial which is to form a fund from which the interest will be used annually to send a gift to some sick or aged nurse for comfort and good cheer on Christmas Day:—Miss Beatrice Cutler, £5; Miss Isabel Macdonald, £1 1s.; Dr. Chaterlene, Miss M. A. Yule, 10s.; Mrs. Moody, Misses M. Short, Templeway, 5s.; Miss Brewer, 3s. 6d.; Misses E. A. Dowse, R.R.C., M. Enroth, I. Hutton, Ingpen, E. Jarvis, Joy, F. Macdonald, Manning, Rush, S. Sims, Spicer, M. Sutton, M. Thorburn, Wilcox, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Bearcroft, Misses E. J. Hall and R. O'Hagan, 2s.; Miss A. McKell, 1s. 6d.; Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Deane, Mrs. Eeles, Mrs. Lambert, Mrs. Mayor, Mrs. Moody, Mrs. Steele Smith, Mrs. Vezey, Misses G. Anderson, E. Armstrong, F. Ashton, Besant, N. Biglands, M. Brown, M. Buchanan, R. Conway, Doré, J. Downie, A. Giffen, M. E. Graf, H. Hewson, S. Holland, Horton, Kingsléy, F. Kirkby, G. Lord, Nicoll, E. Page, E. A. Phillips, Press, A. L. Ross, Rush, E. Swaby Smith, H. Theobald, E. P. Todd, Yule, 1s.

ST. LOUISE DE MARILLAC, THE FIRST SISTER OF CHARITY.

LECTURE BY MISS ISABEL MACDONALD.

(Concluded from page 69).

In 1634 the Ladies of Charity commenced their visits to the Hotel Dieu which had then between 1,000 and 2,000 patients. (Not beds as we would say nowadays for there were usually four or five patients in each bed, all in different stages of illness or convalescence). The hospital was very sadly in need of re-organisation but new innovations had to be accomplished with all possible tact. To commence with, the Ladies of Charity would serve the meals to the patients, meals which the Sisters of Charity cooked in a room rented for the purpose. The scheme was altogether successful so far as it went, though we hope that it was not a case of finding a way to each patient's conscience by way of his stomach, when we read that, in the first year, about 700 patients were converted through the work thus organised!

The story of how Mlle. le Gras became an infant welfare worker is interesting. In the course of her visits she came to a place known as the Couche to which stray babies, found in the streets of Paris, were brought. It is recorded that about four hundred children were brought here each year and that most of them died while others were sold to beggars to entice coins from the pockets of passers by. Mlle. le Gras immediately embarked upon an effort to save these poor victims from the terrible woman who ran this baby farm along with two servants of the lowest type. But resources of Mademoiselle were limited and a ballot had to be taken as to which children would be removed first. However, before long she had persuaded the Association of Ladies of Charity to take up the matter and soon

after Queen Anne of Austria, well known to both St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise, gave Bicetre Castle to be used as a Foundling Hospital. But the usual troubles arose—the work was handicapped owing to lack of money. At last Mlle. le Gras persuaded Vincent de Paul that somehow he must come to the rescue. He called a Meeting of his Association of Ladies of Charity, reminded them quite forcibly that they had "adopted" these waifs and practically asked them to pronounce sentence upon the babies. He put the matter to the vote and needless to say the babies were victorious.

Efforts were renewed but always the burden of the organisation of this hospital and the solution of its problems lay with Mlle. le Gras. Many activities she had besides; she had a school for poor children, she, with the Sisters, gave what teaching they could to working girls and women, she received refugees from war ridden districts and later on she made herself responsible for a home for old men and women. At last, too, it was a good thing for the insane in Paris when the Sisters were made responsible for nursing the mentally afflicted who lived in houses near to the Motherhouse. Then a large hospital came under her administration and soon she was appealed to from all parts of France to come and reform hospitals; she would go sometimes for months at a time and, when she left, her Sisters of Charity remained to continue her administration. It is very interesting to note that the first hospital which she undertook to reorganise was that at Angers which was founded by our King Henry the Second as one of his varied acts of penance for his part in the martyrdom of Thomas à Becket. When she arrived at Angers Mlle. le Gras was ill as a result of her toilsome journey by road and river. But the hospital was in dire confusion as the result of maladministration for centuries and she soon set to work with her Sisters to bring order out of chaos. Many other hospitals she reformed but always she was working against the difficulty of finding a sufficient number of suitable candidates for training in order to meet the calls for more Sisters. During the civil and other wars Mlle. le Gras and her Sisters of Charity have proved of inestimable value. It reads like an epic in nursing history to study all the activities administered from the Motherhouse and the enormous number of people who were being cared for through these. Then came demands from other countries for the services of the sisters, first of all from the Queen of Poland and so a contingent went to Warsaw.

One incident in the story of St. Louise de Marillac serves to show that she was a woman in advance of her time. It was not until about 12 years after the foundation of the Sisterhood that St. Vincent de Paul asked her to draft a constitution for it. Hitherto this, one of the loveliest flowers of nursing organisation, had been allowed to develop in full freedom, to shape itself simply in the light of the wisdom and vision of its creators. But Mlle. le Gras was beginning to grow old, so also Monsieur Vincent, and he felt that the Sisters should have some sort of constitution

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)