

ST. JOAN.

Mr. Livesey Fowler began his lecture by saying:—

"On May 31st, 1931, the old market square of Rouen was filled with a large crowd composed of distinguished ecclesiastics, statesmen, and soldiers, with townspeople and visitors from all parts of the world. They stood around a flame lit in the centre of the square, singing hymns of praise to a departed saint, and then they moved in glowing procession down to the riverside where, as a final act of homage, they threw petals of roses on the waters of the Seine. They were celebrating the 500th anniversary of the death of a girl whose career was unique in the history of the world—the sainted Joan of Arc, Maid of Orleans.

"That story still stands vivid and deathless after this lapse of time. It moves to tears and stirs to sacrifice. It has been the inspiration of great drama, literature, of music, of statuary, of painting. Yet for all her goodness and her prowess Joan of Arc was burnt to death at the age of 19, in the market square of Rouen. She had angered the Church because of her insistence on her mystic voices; she had angered the English soldiers because she had so often beaten them; she had angered the French Court because her skill and energy had shown up their own indolence and rottenness. She fell a victim to the triple power of fear, jealousy, and superstition.

"The external facts of her life are well known, and on the lower planes of thought they are simply inexplicable. The world to-day is still faced with the miracle of that brief and brilliant career, which formed the turning-point of the terrible 100 years' war which, from the middle of the 14th century, had kept England and France in bitter enmity."

The lecturer then traced the history of "the Maid," her birth in the village of Domremy on the banks of the River Meuse—the first picture of the wonderful warrior maiden being a bright-mannered peasant child, of singularly devout nature, kind, gentle, sympathetic.

The beginning of a new life to her was in her thirteenth year, when "a radiant light shone round her, an angel stood before her, bearing a sword, speaking in tones most wonderful, telling her that she was to save France by force of arms. Thus was born in her spirit the overmastering idea of her life, an idea so startling and unprecedented that it seemed akin to madness. Yet it was this 'madness' which henceforth was to mould her life, to lead her far from her native village to glory and to death."

Startling were the words with which she introduced herself at the Court of the Dauphin Charles. "I have come to save France and place the crown on your head O gentle Dauphin, give me an army and let me start."

Triumphantly she raised the siege of Orleans and brought her King to his coronation in the Cathedral city of Rheims.

But her success was her undoing, leading, as the world knows, to her death at the stake.

When warned by the Archbishop after the Coronation that she must be more amenable to the leaders of the Church or she would be left alone in her hour of need, she replied in the sense of the words ascribed to her by Mr. Bernard Shaw in his wonderful play "St. Joan," and with which Mr. Fowler concluded his most interesting lecture:—

"My loneliness shall be my strength. It is better to be alone with God. His counsel will not fail me, nor His friendship, nor His love. In His strength I will dare, and dare, and dare, until I die. I will go out now to the common people and let the love in their eyes comfort me for the hate in yours. You will be glad to see me burnt, but if I go through the fire I shall go through it on their hearts for ever."

At the conclusion of the Lecture there was long applause.

Miss S. A. Villiers, J.P., in proposing a vote of thanks to the Lecturer, expressed warm thanks on behalf of all present to Mr. Fowler for his most brilliant and inspiring Lecture.

Miss Solomon felt they could not allow the Meeting to close without thanking the President of the College, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, for the privilege of holding their Meeting in the beautiful College quarters, and they much appreciated her being present with them at the wonderful Lecture they had all so much enjoyed.

Mrs. Fenwick, in reply, expressed warm appreciation of the Lecture on St. Joan, a Saint whose outstanding courage had always been an inspiration to her, and in a short speech reminded the audience of the value of moral courage.

THE LEAGUE OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL NURSES.

The Winter General Meeting of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses was held on Saturday, December 7th, 1935, in the Lecture Room of the Nurses' Home, which appeared full to capacity. Miss Dey, R.R.C., President, took the chair, and there were 151 members present.

Congratulations were warmly accorded to Miss L. M. Wilmot, Assistant Matron and Sister Tutor of Chichester Hospital, on her success in obtaining the Diploma of Nursing.

The President welcomed the new members of the League by name, a precedent which it is hoped will commend itself both to the long-standing members and the younger ones, and in effect it gave a pleasing impression as of a token of initiation.

A short account of the Isla Stewart Memorial Fund since its inception was given by the President with an enumeration of the benefits that had been awarded through the fund, which ended on a note of earnest appeal for further donations towards the Bursary to be awarded in October, 1936, to enable this to be undertaken without any debt on the main funds of the League.

At the termination of the business of the meeting an Address was given by Dr. Bernard Armitage, who had kindly undertaken at short notice to speak in place of Dr. Porter Phillips, unfortunately prevented from coming by indisposition.

The subject of the Address was "The Rôle of Psychology in Nursing."

THE RÔLE OF PSYCHOLOGY IN NURSING.

Dr. Armitage began his speech with the reminder of the origin of the word psychology, coined a long time ago and made up of two Greek words, "logos," meaning the "study of," and "psyche," the "soul" or "mind." It had not been used very greatly until recent years, but since the War there had been "a spate of writing about it."

It was not until comparatively late in the last century and even in this, that a clear elucidation of the meaning of the word "mind" and the mind's method of working, which is the subject of psychology, evolved into a modern science. One of the most important branches of the treatment of mentally affected people is what is commonly known as psycho-analysis, which became a common topic of interest after the War without any clear idea of this important subject's relative place in the study of treatment and nursing in psychological medicine. Psycho-analysis is by no means the whole matter in psychological medicine, and a due sense of proportion must at all times be observed in relation to it, and its practice should be left entirely to the physician.

A warning was given as to the right selection of literature on the subject of Psychological Medicine as this had assumed such fantastic dimensions, "enough to dismay the digestion of even the most hardened book-reading nurse or student."

Dr. Armitage then went on to say that psychology being the study of that most noble of all our faculties, our "mind,"

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