

NOBLE WORK OF SISTERS AT MISERICORDIA HOSPITAL

There are several institutions scattered throughout the city which do not herald their good works with roll of drum and blare of trumpet. One of these is the Misericordia hospital.

At the southern end of Sherbrooke street, close to the Assiniboine's banks, is a huge brick building, its frontage on Sherbrooke, its rear portion on Maryland.

The passer-by notices the tall cupola with sign emblematic that this structure is conducted beneath the banner of Roman Catholicism. Within the walls of this brick structure a large but unpretentious work is in daily progress. This is the Misericordia hospital.

The pile of buildings of to-day is the fruit of a small commencement twelve years ago. The year following the present site of two acres was purchased and one wing of the hospital erected. This served all requirements until 1907, when it became absolutely imperative to construct an addition two-thirds greater in dimension than the original structure. To-day there is room provided for 250 patients.

The visitor passes into the grounds on Sherbrooke street ascending a long flight of stairs. The principal entrance is reached and he is ushered into a reception room prettily furnished in walnut. Directly at the front of the entrance is located the chapel with magnificent altar and stations of the cross adorning its walls. This edifice is greater in dimension than many of the city's churches. The first floor is utilized principally for private wards; it contains also kitchen and nursery.

Upon the second floor are located the pharmacy and large reception room. A unique feature is found here. In the centre of this flat in a circular form is a series of windows which open on the chapel, thus enabling patients who may be unable to worship in the edifice proper an opportunity to join in the services.

For the Sisters.

Accommodation for the sisters is also provided upon this flat, the rooms of these indefatigable workers being furnished with the greatest simplicity. A door leads into the balcony of the chapel, and the nurses' study hall, together with sewing room, are here located, also private and semi-private wards.

At the head of the stairs on the third

care cease when the patient leaves the institution, for they see that necessary comforts and care are provided in the home afterwards.

Reclamation Work.

But the welfare of the unfortunate young woman symbolized as "Magdalene" is the crowning work of the Misericordia, and when this class of womanhood goes forth through the door of the hospital to fight her way along life's journey she is assisted in obtaining a position. Very rare indeed is it that upon leaving the institution the feet of the Magdalene are not seen treading along the pathways of virtue and honesty.

There are also those who may have given up hope, and girls consigned at various times by the police authorities at Rupert street. The result of this work is inestimable.

Noble Band.

And all this grand work of the humble sisters at the Misericordia is perpetual in its nature. They are a noble band of womanhood, who have thrown aside the role of society and life's pleasures, assuming the plain garb of their order, dwelling in the task of uplifting those to whom their assistance is so readily tendered.

From all portions of Manitoba the patients arrive; creed or religion form no barrier for admittance; the latch string hangs out at the door.

No annual financial grant is made by the city of Winnipeg, a grant of \$1,500 a few years ago being the sum total of the monetary assistance the city has donated to an institution bestowing untold blessings in its midst. The provincial government provides the sum of 25 cents a day per patient, a contribution utterly inadequate towards the patient's maintenance and the vast expenditure of the Misericordia.

The large number of patients daily within its walls may be estimated by the fact that in one morning it is by no means unusual to see 35 doctors enter its door.

Visitors are admitted to view the institution on Thursday and Sunday afternoon, and those who do so invariably walk down its steps imbued with the highest opinions of the Misericordia's work, and utterly lost in amazement that so little pecuniary assistance is forthcoming to further the heroic efforts of the little sisters, the women who devote their lives to stretching forth an helping hand to those within whose breast hope has departed.

J.D.E.

wards.

At the head of the stairs on the third floor is the dormitory for the nurses, also sleeping apartment for the many helpers. The head nurse likewise is provided with quarters here. A large waiting room on the east side is designated as the doctors' quarters, wherein the medical fraternity gather while awaiting entrance to their patients' rooms. The handsome furniture of this apartment has been donated by members of the profession in Winnipeg. Upon this flat is situated the huge dormitory wherein are domiciled the women for whom the splendid work of the Misericordia is particularly intended. Within are 44 beds, and in the southeast corner is the sleeping apartment of a sister.

Operating Room.

In close proximity is the operating room beneath a large skylight. This department is thoroughly up-to-date in equipment and has a floor of mosaic tiling. There are likewise here two waiting rooms and an infirmary containing 20 beds.

A walk up two flights of stairs in the cupola leads to its summit, from whence a panoramic view of the city and surrounding country is obtainable.

The building is heated throughout with steam and is in possession of its own electrical plant, with power house and laundry on the western side of the structure; the entire length of which is 400 feet. The scrupulously clean condition of the entire hospital is a pleasure to the visitor.

Seventeen Sisters.

The staff consists of 17 sisters of the order of Misericordia, a sisterhood possessive of many hospitals and houses in the United States. The present superior is Sister Gabriel, who arrived in Winnipeg from New York in September of last year. These are assisted by a band of 16 qualified nurses, the general work with kitchens and laundry being performed by 30 women and girls. A number of attendants also find employment in caring for the infants of an age insufficient for admittance into the foundling asylum at St. Norbert.

Nurses are trained in the hospital, one year completing the course. Four leading city physicians are responsible for the series of lectures, and provided that a nurse at the termination of her career passes successfully she is granted a diploma of proficiency.

Work of Hospital.

The work of the Misericordia is diametrically different to the routine of other public institutions. It may receive a patient in possession of but scanty means or with a husband unemployed, and the sisters have frequent calls upon them to supply necessary clothing and to give gratis the medical attendance, medicine, food and other necessities. Neither does their

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