



## ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPITAL.

There is every reason to believe and to hope that the new addition to St. Michael's Hospital will be of such a character as to make its work one of the highest usefulness. It is only within the last thirty five years that the theory of hospital management has undergone those changes the results of which are made apparent in this southern pavilion. Previous to that time it might be admitted that the hospital was the least desirable place wherein to endure an illness. Now, the contrary is the case, and it may safely be said that such an institution offers a refuge to suffering humanity superior to what could be obtained at home by any but the very wealthy.

It is probable that always where there have been organized communities of any size there have been structures of some kind meant for hospital purposes.

There is evidence that Cæsar had a well arranged system for the care of his sick and wounded, and in pre-Christian times use was made of an island in the Tiber for the treatment of slaves who should be ill. Then there were the temples of Aesculapius, which were really hospitals, although no one was allowed to die in them, and certain classes of diseases were excluded. But it was during the Christian era that the work was entered upon in earnest. In the year 300 A. D. St. Jerome founded a hospital for pilgrims at Bethlehem. In the year 370 one was founded at Cæsarea and endowed by the Emperor Valerius. In 491 an hospital for the insane was founded at Jerusalem, and in the ninth century there were twenty four hospitals in Rome alone. The Hotel Dieu of Paris was founded by St. Landry in the seventh century, and the first English hospital by the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1080.

The Church therefore has a glorious record in the history of these works of mercy. Indeed, it is to one of the features of her monastic system of the ages of faith that the origin of the present hospital system is attributed. Every monastery had its infirmary, in the beginning a room in the monastery and later a separate building. In France in the year 1226 there were more than two thousand of such infirmaries. One splendid example of this class was founded in Milan in 1456 and is still in use, accomodating usually more than two thousand patients.

However much these institutions were needful to conserve the public health it became evident that in times of excessive distress arising from epidemics or other causes, hospitals, so far from allaying the mortality, rather increased it. This deplorable fact was due to circumstances attendant upon the nature of the construction employed, to ignorance of the effects of good or ill ventilation, of the evil attending any departure even the slightest, from exact cleanliness, and of the conditions which favored contagion.

Quiet was yet another element conducive to recovery often lost sight of. In 1787 the Hotel Dieu of Paris was perhaps the most extensively used hospital in the world. But owing to the non observance of precautions in these directions the mortality rate was very high. The surface space allotted to each patient was utterly insufficient. Often two, three, four or more persons were put in the one bed. The lack of effective means to carry off the refuse and deilement incidental to the work was another source of evil. This undesirable state of affairs drew down upon the management of the Hotel Dieu and others of its character a very severe criticism.

It was about the year 1800 that people began to form an understanding of the movements of air currents, and, in consequence, of the value of pure air in the sick room. Until then the cost of heating was the primary consideration, and closed windows and disease laden air its unpleasant accompaniment. Since then the improvement in this respect has been more or less rapid. In 1860 the Herbert hospital, by many considered as a model, was built. It is of two storey construction, and consists of a number of separate buildings, pavilions as they are called. By this means the best effects of air and sunlight are combined with the minimum of danger of contamination.

Scrupulous cleanliness has ever been looked upon as one of the most necessary adjuncts in hospital treatment. The late Sir Morell Mackenzie told of a case where the management of an hospital thought to tear down the old building and erect a new one on account of the prevailing high rate of mortality. While the project was under consideration a new matron was added to the staff who by vigorously setting right every delinquency in this particular in a few months reduced the rate of mortality by one half. But the need for extraordinary care became impressed upon the minds of those engaged in the work only when Pasteur had proven by his investigation of germ life that particular forms of disease were due to the presence of these microscopic forms of life, and that the conditions could not exist without them. This at once indisputably proved the necessity for the most scrupulous care in avoiding the possibility of contamination. To such an extent has this safeguarding been carried that in the surgical operating room of one hospital all operations are performed under cover of glass.

It is gratifying indeed to know that when completed, as it soon will be, St. Michael's Hospital will have the benefit of all the very latest ideas of construction which go towards ensuring the important features that have been indicated. The present hospital will form the medical wing and the new pavilion will be the surgical wing. Between these are the offices of administration. The wards, which are

small, in accordance with the most approved ideas, are separated by solid walls of brick. The systems of ventilation and sewage are the most perfect possible. The building will be heated by steam, and all of the appointments of whatever nature are of the best that could be procured. The operating theatre will be in the rear of the new wing and has been designed with a view to leaving no areas which may not regularly be cleaned.

So long ago as 1618 the Church was caring for the sick and infirm in a primitive hospital at Montreal, and at the Hospital de la Misericorde at Quebec. In 1780 three hospital nuns came from old France on the same mission. Within a few months Catholics will be in a position to know that their Toronto Hospital so far from being open to the old time charge against hospitals in general, that they were the worst places to which one could go for treatment, is on the contrary the very safest haven to which they could fly in time of need. One would there secure not only constant medical attendance, but the other inestimable advantages of trained nursing, careful dressing where needed, warmth, quiet and pure air.

### Irish Song Writers.

The Irish are pre eminently a nation of song writers. There was a time when the epic glory of Ireland, the prowess valor and heroic deeds of her children—found fitting expression only in the sublime form of a Milton or Homer. But with the advent of the spoilers of Ireland her poetry took a more lyric form and became an ode instead of an epic. Life passed from action to suffering and the heart overflowing with poignant grief sobbed its lyric sorrows through each home in the land. The vocation of the bard seemed to grow less honored, for the heaven-endowed office of song like everything else that was holy, suffered desecration and profanement under the hand and heel of the English Attilas who ravaged the land. Irish poetry then became subjective, voicing the sorrows and hopes of a people in bondage. What wonder therefore that the Irish songs even of to-day are set in a minor key. How could a voice of triumph issue from chains? "You have no 'Scots wha hae' or 'March of the Cameron men' in the songs of Ireland," said a Scotchman once to me; but he forgot as O'Connell once told the people of Edinburgh that Scotland gave but never received Kings; that she suffered but one religious persecution, and that massacres, miseries and penal laws which stain the pages of Irish history are an unknown quantity in the history of the land of Burns.

Yet out of all the sad gloom and hopeless nights which for centuries enveloped Ireland, the Irish heart has emerged with a freshness, buoyancy and sunshine all its own, and to-day the genius of Irish song strikes the

chords of Erin's love, freedom and joy with a firmness and soul-thrilling touch which recall the glorious triumphs of O'Carolan, the last of the Irish bards, as with face upturned, flowing locks and sightless eyes, he voiced in presence of the boy Oliver Goldsmith, the hopes, sorrows and glories of his beloved land.

In no other place has the truth of the saying of Fletcher of Saltoun, been better exemplified than in Ireland, for unquestionably the Irish song writer has been stronger than the English lawmaker. Just see what the Irish song writer did for the uprising of '98 and the '48 movement. Read the poem "Who fears to speak of '98," and then tell me if you will, that you are ashamed that your grandfather was a "Rory of the Hills." The songs of Mangan, Davis, McGee and Speranza, kept the fires of patriotism burning upon Irish hearths long after the crowbar of the landlord had levelled the thatched cabin to the ground.

Nor has the gift of Irish song writing gone out in our day. Alfred Percival Graves, author of "Kitty Bhan," "Fan Fitzgerald" and "Father O'Flynn," has glorified Irish scenes and Irish peasant life in the County of Kerry in forms which for melody, finish, grace and delicacy of spirit are unsurpassed by any lyrics of our day, while the rollicking, tender and patriotic songs of his brother poet from Cork, Hon. T. D. Sullivan, who has recently visited our shores—a greeting to his warm heart and kindly hand!—have been more potent than the strongest enactments of an English House of Commons. Nor in the warmth of his patriotic and poetic heart has the gifted ex Mayor of Dublin forgotten the Irish exile abroad. Under northern skies, "thin each "Shanty bright," cheered by the light of memory and love, the Irish exile sings "Deep in Canadian Woods We've met," and with thoughts set high above the toil of the day ever watches for the dawn of full freedom in the beloved land of his birth.

THOMAS O'HAGAN.

The Democratic minority in the Michigan State legislature is John Donovan, of Bay City. There are several good points about the Democratic minority. It is not likely to be troubled with internal dissensions; it will not be difficult to shape its policy, and any accession to its number will be a clear gain of one hundred per cent in voting power. Another good point about the minority is that hails from Hamilton, Mr. Donovan having been born in this city some fifty years ago. He is a builder, a total abstainer, a Roman Catholic, and bears the reputation of an upright honorable man.—Spectator.

That soft, rich, glossy sheen, so much admired in hair, can be secured by the use of Ayer's Hair Vigor. All the assistance that nature requires to make the hair strong, beautiful and abundant, is supplied by this preparation.