

peror, herself the first lady of ancient world, visited the thirty-five hospitals of Constantinople, making the beds of the poor and becoming the maid-servant of the sick-chamber. We all know the name of the angel of mercy whom the Crimean War brought to the help of the English sick and wounded, and the name of the equally worthy minister of charity whom America now honors, Clara Barton, the representative of that Red Cross Society which knows nothing of nationality, and whose standard of peace and help is now lifted by more than a score of Governments over the fields of carnage and death. We have read of that later heroine of charity whom Florence Nightingale inspired, Dorothy Pattison, usually known as Sister Dora, whose hospital work and whose marvellous strength and beauty of character have inspired many women to leave the dreary dissatisfactions of a life of fashionable pleasure for the enduring rewards of a life of charity.

A marvellous development of the hospital spirit has been made. It means more to be a hospital superintendent now than ever before. Twenty years ago the Government returns for 1886 showed that 7,035 patients had been treated during that year in the hospitals of Ontario, ten years ago the returns indicated an increase to 17,517 as the number of patients treated in our hospitals in 1896. The increase was great during those ten years, but not nearly so remarkable as those we had to present this year. The last report shows that during the past year there were treated in the hospitals of Ontario 41,950 persons and that the total annual expenditure for hospital maintenance, including capital accounts, was \$1,228,289. What do these figures mean? Do they indicate an increased public confidence, so that not only the poor, but the well-to-do class seek hospital treatment? Do those figures mean that our hospitals, by able management and greater efficiency, have justified themselves so that the rich are glad to bequeath large sums for their erection and support? With the material prosperity which Canada has been enjoying it is pleasing to note the fact that civic pride and local philanthropy have gone hand in hand in the matter of hospital progress, and we have been furnished with a manifestation of a social and humanitarian movement that is surely creditable to the people of Ontario. This growth of the hospital spirit will continue if we are able to demonstrate to the public that every dollar is used to do the most possible good. We must never forget that hospitals are established for the care of the sick poor and in these days when so much attention is paid to making private wards luxurious there is probably too great a temptation to favor the private patients at the expense of the deserving poor in the public wards. The resources of a hospital are a public trust and they must be guarded and used as such. Economy consistent with good management is so evident