H Retrospect of fifty Years

The Bouse of Providence, Kingston, Ontario.

I 6A 19 EA Eng "Chou shalt sanctify the fiftieth year . . . for it is the year of Jubilee." Lev. XXV. 10.

1861 • • • 1911

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Magnificat

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MAGNIFICAT: anima mea Dominum.

Et exultavit spiritus meus: in Deo salutari meo.

Quia respexit humilitatem ancillæ suæ: ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes generationes.

Quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est : et sanctum nomen ejus.

Et misericordia ejus a progenie in progenies: timentibus eum.

Fecit potentiam in brachio suo: dispersit superbos mente cordis sui.

Deposuit potentes de sede: et exaltavit humiles. Esurientes implevit bonis: et divites dimisit inanes.

Suscepit Israel puerum suum: recordatus misericordiæ suæ.

Sicut locutus est ad patres nostros: Abraham, et semini ejus in sæcula.

Cablegram from Dis Doliness, Pope Pius X.

TO MOST REV. M. J. SPRATT,

ARCHBISHOP OF KINGSTON.

Holy Father sends blessing occasion Golden Jubilee of House of Providence.

CARDINAL MERRY DEL VAL.

Delegatio Apostolica,

OTTAWA, JUNE 20TH, 1912.

Rev. Mother Superior, Sisters of Charity, House of Providence,

KINGSTON, ONT.

DEAR REV. MOTHER,-

It would give me great pleasure to assist at the Golden Jubilee of the House of Providence of Kingston and to see again the noble work of charity which the good Sisters of Charity are doing, but I very much fear that my many occupations will not permit me to do so, as I should most readily accede to your kind invitation, did my work and other engagements allow me this pleasure.

I most earnestly pray for the continued success of your work. I congratulate you most cordially on all that you have so zealously accomplished during these fifty years, and, wishing you, individually and as a community, the choicest graces and favors of Almighty God, from my heart I bless you and all those entrusted to your care.

Yours sincerely in Xto,

+P. F. STAGNI, O.S.M.,

ABP. OF AQUILA,

DEL. AP.



R.F. REV. E. J. HORAN, Rea FOUNDER OF THE INSTITUTE OF THE SISTERS OF CHARTY, BOUSSE OF PROVIDENCE, REMISSION.



REV. MOTHER MARY OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.

H Retrospect of fifty Years

... OF ...

The house of Providence, Kingston, Ontario.

WHE closing month of 1911 marked the Golden Jubilee of the House of Providence, which joyous event gives fitting occasion to present to kind friends and interested readers a brief history of the work accomplished by our institution within the past half century.

On his accession to the See of Kingston, the late Right Rev. E. J. Horan saw with utmost pleasure that while the children of his Episcopal city were provided with all that was necessary for mental and moral training and that the sick received most careful nursing in the Hospital of the Hotel Dieu, there yet remained a sacred portion of his charge to be cared for—these were the orphans and homeless poor.

Unceasing were his efforts to secure for these cherished members of his flock, a safe refuge where weary and worn humanity might find a haven of rest.

His Lordship appealed to Bishop Bourget, of Montreal, to assist him in this all-important enterprise to which his heart and mind were mutually directed. Inexpressible was his joy on learning that his long-hoped for project would be most generously carried into effect by the Sisters of Charity, of Providence, Montreal, who nobly manifested the charitable spirit of their holy and humble patron, St. Vincent de Paul, in leaving their loved Mother House, to open in strange surroundings an asylum where the helpless orphans, bereft of their natural protectors, and the aged and infirm might find a home of comfort amid the consolations of religion.

Arrival in Kingston 1861.

On a chill December evening of the year 1861, four zealous and devoted Sisters of the Providence of Montreal, Sister Mary of the Blessed Sacrament, Sister Mary Anselm, Sister Mary Andrew and Sister Mary of Mt. Carmel bade adieu to their dearly loved Mother House, and, forgetful of the winter's cheerlessness in the ardor of their zeal, they found themselves ere morning in a plain but cosy dwelling which would henceforth be designated the House of Providence, of Kingston. The building was a twostoried stone structure formerly occupied by military officers. Thanks to the forethought of his Lordship, zealously assisted by his sister, Miss M. Horan, who was ever regarded as the first benefactress of the Providence at Kingston, this humble dwelling, presented to the Sisters on their arrival, a home-like air of rest and comfort.

A dearly loved privilege, seldom enjoyed by new foundations, was from the first morning of their arrival, granted these humble daughters of Charity. Their Eucharistic King, dwelt in their midst from the moment of the first Divine Sacrifice offered, Dec. 13th, by his Lordship, and there He ever remained, to be their solace and joy, encouraging them onward when all looked dark and hopeless.

Without delay the good Sisters commenced their arduous works of visiting the sick, admitting and tenderly caring for the aged, and of giving affectionate attention to the homeless little ones.

The first twenty-fifth of March, speut in the community, was a day of double rejoicing, as it brought to the courageous



little band of Sisters an additional help, in the persons of two hopeful young aspirants for the religious life. Little wonder is it that this memorable date is still marked in a becoming festive manner, and that the members of the now extensive community annually look forward to a gala celebration of this eventful day.

First Addition to the Building.

By this time the little dwelling proved itself far too inadequate to accommodate the members of homeless ones, so His Lordship purchased an adjacent though much dilapidated building which, when put in repair, afforded more commodious quarters for the orphans and aged.

Departure of Foundresses.

At the expiration of five years the foundresses returned to their Mother House in Montreal, placing the management of the Infant Community, under the prudent guidance of the first professed candidate, Sister M. Edward (McKinley) a young and inexperienced religious, who assumed the charge with great reluctance. Under her able administration the community gradually increased in membership so that at the close of the first decade their number registered sixteen sisters.

Second Addition to Building.

As the applications to the orphanage and to the wards of the aged were daily growing more numerous, Mother Mary Edward saw the great necessity of better accommodation and zealously set to work to provide this for her increasing charge. That the building might be the more quickly completed, the Sisters and inmates were obliged to vacate their present dwelling and repair to Regiopolis College, at present the Hotel Dieu Hospital.

And now the self-sacrificing Sisters were called upon to make additional effort to raise funds to begin the work. Sister Mary Jane de Chantal (Macaulay) and Sister Mary Patrick (McKinley) spent seven weeks collecting in the Eastern States, and though they reached Montreal with only a cent in their possession which they dropped at St. Joseph shrine, inviting him to accompany them on their mission, they returned with the goodly sum of \$1,600, which manifested the kind manner in which they were received. Another collecting tour was cheerfully undertaken by Sr. M. Elizabeth (Stafford) and Sr. M. Patrick to New York State, where, notwithstanding, the hardships to be sustained on such a trip in the early seventies they were amply repaid with a generous purse. These tours, in addition to a very successful bazaar, held in 1873, with net proceeds of \$3,400, brought sufficient sum to pay off all indebtedness on the new house erected in 1871. But what afforded greatest happiness to the striving little community was that in the new building they had a more fitting abode for their Divine King of the Tabernacle than previously, for though they had revealed many a heartache to their Hidden Master in the old chapel, and had naturally grown quite attached to the holy place, yet they not unwillingly bade farewell to its sacred precincts to enter a more becoming and larger house of prayer.

The First Mission Fund.

At this juncture our saintly founder, Rt. Rev. E. J. Horan, acceded to the urgent request of Rev. P. J. Harkins, of Holyoke, Mass., for the establishment of a branch house of the order of Sisters of Charity in that city. Early in November four Sisters, Sr. M. Edward, Sr. Mary of Mt. Carmel (Byrne), Sr. M. of the Cross (Keating) and Sr. M. Patrick betook themselves from their loved Mother House, the administration of which had a short time previously passed into the gentle but firm hands of Mother Mary John (O'Donnell) to undertake the strenuous work of caring for the sick, the poor and the orphans, and later to train the minds and hearts of the boys in the city schools of Holyoke. Like the grain of mustard seed, this mission has grown to a mighty tree, under whose quiet shades many an orphan, many a patient and many a

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weary aged person has found relief and consolation. It was for the maintenance of this first mission that Sister M. Leonard (Gargan) and Sister M. Teresa (Cleary) undertook a most laborious task of collecting through the western states, which journey covered nearly seven months and was crowned with most satisfactory results.

Memorable Events.

Hardly a year elapsed when to the universal sorrow of the young community, their revered Founder, Rt. Rev. E. J. Horan, showed indications of a weakened constitution, and too well they understood that they were not long to have their solicitous Founder as their Ecclesiastical Superior. On the 15th of February, 1875, a stroke of paralysis severed the slender cord that bound him to this earth, and the sorrowing Sisters wholly resigned paid their last respectful and loving tributes to their dear departed Father.

Rt. Rev. J. O'Brien, under whose jurisdiction our beloved community then passed, proved an able and worthy successor, always manifesting a deep interest in the progress and various workings of the House of Providence.

At this period Divine Providence came to the community's relief in the procuring of a much needed grant from the Government, through the influence of their ever-generous benefactor, Hon. Wm. Harty, an eminent Canadian statesman, as well as a trustworthy friend of the Institute. He interested the Catholic representative in the Provincial Cabinet, the Hon. C. F. Fraser, and a little later an official visit was made by the Inspector of Charities, which resulted in the obtaining of a \$1,000 grant to the house. In his regular visits the Inspector expressed with delight his utter satisfaction in the yearly improvements made for the comforts of the feeble and the orphans. In 1879 the little community was again called upon to sacrifice its venerated ecclesiastical superior, whose sudden death at Qubec, filled the hearts of the bereaved sisters with consternation and grief. But God in His Infinite wisdom filled the vacated see with a holy prelate of untiring devotion and zeal for the strugging community. Rt. Rev. James Vincent Cleary, S.T.D., who proved not only a spiritual director, but a most generous friend in the discharge of his duties and in countless gratuitous acts of kindness and helpfulness.

New Laundry and Renovations.

And while these varying scenes were passing, one by one the homeless poor and little ones were daily asking shelter and protection at the House of Providence, so that very soon the building was again too limited to accommodate all. As his Lordship had previously consented to the erection of a laundry with suitable conveniences, and had co-operated in the renovation of the property, he hesitated some months before agreeing with the proposition of erecting an addition. His attention just now was drawn to Brockville where he proposed the opening of an hospital, a graphic account of which is shown in another article.

Mother Edward's Silver Jubilee.

During the opening months of 1889, appropriate preparations were in progress for the proper celebration of Rev. Mother Edward's Silver Jubilee, she having resumed the responsibility of Superior at the death of Mother M. John, and the dawn of the glorious event brought light, joy and a feeling of general happiness to our circle. The grateful devoted hearts of her children were afforded an opportunity of expressing their veneration, love and thankfulness to one, who had labored over a quarter of a century, with untiring zeal to advance the interests of the Institution and bring contentment, consolation and happiness to its members.

Delegates from the two missions arrived in good season laden with substantial tokens of affectionate esteem and sincere congratulations of the missionaries. On the evening of the Great Day, March 25th, a little entertainment by the Sisters, followed by Addresses and Presentations, opened the Triduum of Joyful Celebration. His Lordship being engaged in Visitation of the Parishes of the Diocese, telegraphed his congratulations to Rev. Mother, and on his return came in company with his Secretary to offer his kindest wishes in person.

Increase in Orphans.

About this period negotiations were in progress between the Community and the Catholic Protection Society of Liverpool, Eng., for the reception of orphans sent to Canada. His Lordship highly favored the plan and on May of the following year Mrs. Lacy, Matron of the Society in England, arrived with one hundred and thirty children, ranging from 3 to 15 years of age. It was a very touching sight to see these poor little strangers elinging to their own, fearing to be separated, while many persons stood around to choose whom they desired for themselves. Where at all possible these homeless little ones were placed as near their own as could be arranged. This charitable work was carried on successfully for the course of five years, during which time many hundreds of little boys and girls were placed in the loving care of charitably disposed families.

St. James' Home.

At last the restricted quarters of the inmates and sisters forced them once more to appeal for His Lordship's approval of erecting an addition. Their request not only met with His Lordship's approbation, but a generous donation of \$3,000 accompanied it, and the magnificent structure, known as St. James' Home for Aged and Infirm, was at once commenced, and notwithstanding many trials and difficulties of this particular time, the building was successfully completed and in readiness for the solemn ceremony of its blessing in October of '92.

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Extension in Educational Sphere.

Late in December of the same year the paternal efforts of their zealous prelate were being directed towards the establishment of a Sisters' school in Perth; he being unceasing in his earnest endeavours to spread the religious influence of his precious community over the hearts of the young in his diocese. A detailed note of this mission is recorded in another chapter.

The Chapel of Our Mother of Sorrows.

So rapid was the growth of the community and the number of inmates within the next few years, that the urgent need of a more commodious Chapel became manifest. His Grace, in his never-failing fatherly generosity, when performing the ceremony of the laying of the corner stone, most unostentatiously donated a magnanimous cheque of \$7,000 towards the building. Divine Providence willed that he should not live to witness its solemn blessing, for in the following February this esteemed and holy ecclesiastic was called to his eternal reward. Many are the kindly recollections still cherished of the late Most Rev. J. V. Cleary, whose paternal solicitude for the welfare of the community, showed itself in many ways and was deeply appreciated and corresponded with by his good Sisters at the Providence.

The vacant Archbishopric was next filled by the Most Rev. C. H. Gauthier, D.D., who proved a tender and devoted Father, and soon won the love and esteem of all.

Dedication of Chapel.

The golden chain of years, connecting the past with the present, has been linked by many memorable scenes, but none was of such moment as the dedication of the chapel of Our Mother of Sorrows. Now for the first time it could be felt that the Divine Shepherd had a home set apart for Himself and a bell to be used exclusively in His service. It may not be understood by all why such should render unlimited happiness to the Sisters, but let it



be remembered that it was the strength emanating from the tabernacle of this holy edifice that enabled the striving sisters to persevere in their laborious and often times repulsive acts of charity, and it was while kneeling there in the silent stillness that they received fresh courage and vigor to proceed a little further in the footsteps of their Divine Spouse in the Tabernacle.

Mother Edward's Death.

And oh ! what a heavy trial was at this moment in store for the patient Sisters of the Providence. News reached them from Trenton, where their venerated Mother Mary Edward was local Superior since the previous general election, that she who had been their guiding light since the foundation of the Institution, had been summoned before her Divine Judge, fortified by the holy Sacraments of the Church. Reviewing how wide-spread the community's sphere of holy activity has extended, under her vigorous administration, challenges the admiration of all. She overcame every difficulty, and especially that of Holyoke, which was a painful blow to her.

St. Vincent's Wing.

In close succession to the admirable work of architecture, the Church of Our Mother of Sorrows, the last addition, St. Vincent's Wing, was undertaken and successfully accomplished under the wise control of the prudent and amiable Mother Mary Scholastica (McDonnell) who so proficiently strove to maintain the perfect order and the educational attainments that previously had been laid on such solid foundations. Her high estimate of educational advancement shines forth in the prosperous teaching missions which she founded and which are to-day giving such substantial and enlightened assistance to the various parishes throughout the diocese. Their respective histories, as well as cuts, are shown elsewhere.

A Heavy Loss.

But as seasons of shadow alternate with those of sunshine, so now must be recorded, after these years of progress, a grave loss that saddened the hearts of the entire community. This was the

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untimely death of their dearly-loved and estimable Mother Mary Scholastica, whose name has been so closely interwoven with the welfare of the community for many long years and whose affable disposition and sweet motherly manner endeared her to all who came in contact with her.

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Decoration of Church.

But sorrows and separations, heart-breaking though they be, cannot stay the progress which God's holy work demands, and, within a year, the beautifying of God's sacred temple, the Church of Our Mother of Sorrows, was commenced. This work comprised the decorating and painting of the interior, which magnificent piece of art is fully described in another passage. Let it be mentioned that this elegant finish on the interior of the Church was accomplished chiefly through the valuable support and generous co-operation of the energetic sisters themselves, who strove by every means to raise sufficient funds for this praiseworthy work of beauty.

Novitiate and Orphanage.

So increased was the number of candidates during the next few years, that the over-crowded Novitiate demanded further enlargement, and thereupon was adopted the plan of erecting a Novitiate and Orphanage as well, at St. Mary's of the Lake, a most picturesque and healthful location. After two years of laborious planning and various disappointments in the enterprise, the immense and elegant structure known as St. Mary's of the Lake, stands to view on a breezy bluff, overlooking the magnificent scenery of Lake Ontario.

Here it is that Mother Mary of the Sacred Heart (Gardiner) who from the early days of the foundation, has worked so zealously in the spiritual and temporal interests of her community, is charged with the sacred duty of moulding the hearts and minds of those young ladies who desire to learn the secrets and practice the virtues of a true religious life.



Increase of Missions.

Animated by a zeal for the spread of God's Kingdom on earth, Mother Mary Gabriel (Cunningham) whose excellent judgment and prudent business abilities, together with her sincerity of soul, have fitted her for the office of Superior, next opened two teaching missions, which are conducted most efficiently by well-qualified staffs, an account of which with groups are shown elsewhere.

And can it be imagined that such brilliant and useful services could be rendered by this Sisterhood without the fame thereof spreading far and wide? Within the past few years weekly solicitations have been received from the far west, asking the aid of these Sisters of Charity to administer to the sick and to educate the young. As more pressing needs presented themselves at home and only one of them could be granted, viz., a hospital, now a flourishing and well equipped establishment in a thriving town at Daysland in Alberta, which has opened the golden gates for a later influx of their longed for assistance in the glorious west.

Jubilee Building.

Perhaps the strongest band that will forge the golden link of to-day with the numberless links of the past, is the handsome stone structure that presents such a massive and beautiful appearance on Ordnance Street, the Jubilee Building. This will furnish the Community with the long needed appartments, known as the Administration Offices, and remaining to witness the fiftieth anniversary of the House, will be an imposing monument and a memorable testimony to the laborious zeal and unceasing energy of the good Sisters of Charity through all these years.

Departure of Archbishop Gauthier.

In February, 1911, the community saw with very sincere regret the departure of their beloved Archbishop, Most Reverend C. H. Gauthier, who, a few months previously, had been translated to the Archiepiscopal See of Ottawa, the capital of Canada. During

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the term of His Grace's administration of this diocese, he has ever been a devoted friend, kind father and wise counsellor of our community.

The Appointment of Our Present Beloved Archbishop.

The cup of sorrow occasioned by the departure of His Grace, Archbishop Gauthier, was sweetened by the welcome announcement of the appointment of the Reverend M. J. Spratt, pastor of Belleville, as his successor. Our Sisters had long experienced the fatherly interest and unselfish devotion that have characterized the life of our present beloved Archbishop. His Grace, prior to his appointment to the See of Kingston, was pastor successively of Trenton and Belleville, at which places our Sisters teach the Separate Schools; and the marked success they have achieved in these Institutions has been largely due to the generous and fatherly interest of His Grace.

Conclusion.

And now, this brief sketch of the House of Providence has brought you, dear interested reader, to the present, after recalling to your admiration the arduous labors of its early members, and the ready and active zeal of its later subjects, so there remains but little to be recorded.

The last decade of years have shone with wondrous progress, and if Almighty God has asked His loved Community for very heartrendering sacrifices in the deaths of two of their most saintly superiors, and in the loss of other young and useful members. He has most bounteously rewarded their noble spirit of sacrifice by numberless compensatory favors and graces. Prosperity and advancement have marked the works in every direction, and the schools particularly are making rapid strides towards the highest perfection in the spiritual as well as in the secular lines of study.

God grant that the gratifying results of the past half century may be but an earnest of the still greater successes to be achieved in the days to come.

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foundations, hospitals and Schools.

S IS generally known the Order of the Sisters of Charity. founded by St. Vincent de Paul, in the 17th Century, was from the first devoted expressly to the care of the sick and the poor, but this divine mission did not preclude the uplifting of society by instructing, where occasion presented itself, and developing the physical, mental and moral powers of the child.

Imbued with the principals of universal charity and fully confident of the Divine Protection it has always been the aim of the good Sisters of Charity to extend as widely as possible the blessed works of tenderly nursing the sick and sowing the seed of Catholic instruction. The latter in fact during the past few years has become a most important factor among their various works, and pastors and parents realizing the advantages of Separate School training are everywhere anxious to secure it.

Consequently requests for these teaching sisters have come to them frequently, but owing to the paucity of members, it has been impossible to accept all. Where at all possible they have not refused to extend the sphere of their proficient assistance and activity for the welfare of Catholic youth.

St. Vincent de Paul Hospital and Boys' School, Brockville.

In 1887, Rt. Rev. J. V. Cleary, S.T.D., gave his decision regarding the opening of a hospital in Brockville, and in November of the same year, Sister Mary Berchmans (Candon), Superior, left the Mother House, in company with three Sisters, to commence the noble task of nursing the sick. This hospital was placed under the protection and patronage of the holy Founder of the Order, St. Vincent de Paul, whose name it bears. It was first located on the Gillerlain property, commanding an excellent view of the town.

In a few years was procured a more desirable site, the Jones' property, Pine Street, more convenient to the town, and the beautifully finished residence thereon was converted into an hospital.

From time to time this building has undergone various changes and additions. During the years 1911-12 a new wing was added and the present structure of St. Vincent de Paul Hospital is a magnificent institution, equipped with the most modern apparatus and conveniences, and capable of accommodating ell who may in affliction seek up-to-date nursing and care.

In 1893 a training school for nurses was established in connection with the hospital, and owing to generous co-operation of the medical staff, who have each delivered a course of lectures, and the splendid disciplinary system, instituted by the first superintendent of nurses, the school has been a great success. Each year the number of graduates has increased. The present superintendent of nurses is one of the Sisters, who sustains with great credit the reputation of the school for its excellent discipline and organization.

To the solicitude and kindness of the Very Rev. Dean Murray the hospital owes a great deal of its progress ; his fostering care has helped to remove many difficulties in the way of advancement. Nor must we forget the Ladies' Auxiliary of the hospital, whose assistance in the great work of charity has been most ample. To the medical staff the Sisters extend their most heart-felt thanks for their unfailing courtesy and generous co-operation in making the reputation of the hospital so excellent in the surrounding community. Last, but by no means the least, too much credit cannot be given to Sister Mary Clement (Shea) who, during the past sixteen years, has devoted such incessant care to the progress of the Institution.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HOSPITAL, BROCKVILLE, ONT.



ST. JOHN'S CONVENT. PLETH, ONT.



ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL, BELLEVILLE, ONT.



ST. PETER'S CONVENT, TRENTON, ONT.

St. John's Convent, Perth, Ont.

The work of the Sisters of St. John's Convent, Perth, is that of teaching the Catholic Separate School of that town. The convent was founded December 26th, 1862, during the pastorate of the Rev. C. J. Duffus, who had the building furnished. The Sisters who were named to open the mission were accompanied to their new home by the Mother General and Archbishop Cleary. Since that time the school has steadily progressed. The staff consists of five teachers, to whose unwearied devotedness, under the prudent direction and valued assistance of the zealous pastor, Rev. J. T. Hogan, the present high degree of proficiency of the school is due. Besides the school course, the Sisters conduct a large music class and have charge of church sacristy, organ and training of the choir.

The sodality of the Children of Mary, under the direction of the local Superior, has increased since its inception, until the membership now number eighty. The present pastor has ever been a truly devoted shepherd in promoting the interests of the Sodality. His frequent instructions and visits are of great benefit and encouragement to the members.

St. Michael's Convent, Belleville.

During the pastorate of the late Rt. Rev. Mgr. Farrelly St. Michael's Couvent was established in Belleville and opened August, 1900, under the guidance of Sister M. F. Regis (Yonge). Previous to the advent of the House of Providence Sisters, the Loretto Sisters had been engaged in the work of teaching, and it was their withdrawal from the work occasioned an invitation to be sent to the House of Providence Sisters who, whenever it has been possible, they have not failed to broaden the sphere of their influence and activity for the good of Catholic youth.

The late Rev. D. A. Twomey was eminently an educationist, and the present enviable position of the schools was due in a large measure to his zeal. Shortly before his lamented death the erection of a large, modern, splendidly equipped school was completed.

St. Peter's Convent, Trenton, Ont.

The third call for a mission school came in 1902 from the late Rev. P. A. Twohey. Previously the work was in charge of the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame, but upon their departure the Sisters of the House of Providence were requested to take up the work. Again the Religions responded to the call, although their numbers were not more than sufficient to carry on the ever-increasing duty of the Mother House, Mother M. Edward (McKinley) was appointed Superior and with her companions set out for their new home to take up the work. They were received most cordially by the pastor and people. The prosperous condition of the school and large number of pupils, are sources of pleasure and satisfaction to all those interested in the work. Besides the work of teaching instruction in music is given.

St. Francis de Sales General Hospital, Smith's Falls, Ont.

The location of a Hospital at Smith's Falls was proposed during the visitation of Archbishop Gauthier in 1903. The project was approved by His Grace and was eagerly welcomed by the pastor of Smith's Falls parish, Rev. Father Kelly, who had been anxiously awaiting the foundation of such an institution. A suitable location was secured, the building erected and opened for the reception of patients in 1904, under the able leadership of the Superior, Sister M. Vincent (McDonnell). Since that auspicious occasion the hospital has succeeded beyond expectation, and has brought solace, comfort and relief to hundreds of ill and unfortunate, who would otherwise have been without the slighest care or attention. In other words the hospital has amply filled a longfelt want in the community. In this work of self-congratulation we must not forget the kindness and courtesy of the medical men, under whose care the patients have been; nor the generous assistance of the good ladies of Smith's Falls, who, without distinction of religion, have taken the warmest interest in the institution,

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ST. MARK'S CONVENT, PRESCOTT, ONT.

and who by their large charity have made possible in many cases the good work done by the Sisters. Lastly to the Rev. Father Kelly the hospital owes much for unwavering and undaunted support since it's beginning.

St. Mark's Convent, Prescott, Ont.

This convent was established in 1905 in an excellent situation. The building is the home of the late Dr. Buckley, and it is through the great kindness and generosity of Mrs. Buckley, who relinquished her right to the residence during her life, that the Sisters have been able to locate themselves so well. The proverbial kindness of Monsignor Masterson has been ever shown to the Sisters, with a liberal hand, and that paternal solicitude which he exhibits, none can fully appreciate save only those who have experienced its gentle influence. To the ladies of Prescott the convent is indebted for providing for the furnishings and other necessary requirements. The blessing of the Chapel in connection with the convent was the occasion of a manifestation of great spiritual rejoicing and thanksgiving, and many a prayer was offered up to the Maker of all for the soul of the noble-hearted doctor, who had by his thoughtfulness made possible thorough education in the community in which he lived. The community was committed to the able guidance of Mother M. Francis (Condon.)

St. Mary's Convent, Chesterville.

For some time Rev. J. J. Fleming, the zealous pastor, had been endeavoring to procure religious teachers from the House of Providence for his school. But the community did not find it possible to grant the request until 1907.

At this time three Sisters, accompanied by Sr. M. John, (Crowley) as Superior, began the work. They were given a hearty welcome by the pastor and many friends, and found a neat little home waiting for them, through the kindness and generosity of Mrs. A. C. Gillissie.

Providence General Hospital, Daysland, Alta.

After many solicitations there was established in the year 1908, in Daysland, Alberta, a hospital in charge of the Superior, Sister M. Angel Guardian (Mangan), with four sisters. The project was one of great difficulty, but was finally accomplished. The building is of modern construction and is situated a short distance west of the business section of the town. Here it is filling its useful purpose, ministering to hospital needs of the great and growing West, of which the district surrounding Daysland is a flourishing part.

Sacred Heart Convent, Arnprior.

This convent was founded in 1909, at the urgent request of the ever-devoted pastor, Rev. A. Chaine, who realized the advantages and efficiency of such training, and religious instructions, the Catholic youth would enjoy in a Separate school. Five Sisters with Mother M. Philip (Murray) as Superior took their departure, to establish a house of the order of Sisters of Charity at Arnprior, where they found a house well located and beautiful grounds surrounding it, ready for them.

Since the school opened the number of pupils increased so rapidly that a second colony had to be sent. A music class has also been organized there.

St. Mary's of the Lake Novitiate and Orphanage.

This institution was opened in 1910, and, as its name implies, has for its purpose the care and education of the orphaned, as well as the training of those who seek to enter the religious state and become the active dispensers of charity. This purpose St. Mary's of the Lake is fulfilling day by day, and the work is made easier of accomplishment on account of its ideal location, and the excellence of its construction, equipped as it is with all modern conven-



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL CHESTERVILLE.



PROVIDENCE GENERAL HOSPITAL, DAYSLAND ALTA,



SACRED HEART CONVENT. ARNURLOR.



ST. MARY'S OF THE LAKE NOVITIATE AND ORTHANAGE.

iences, and at the same time possessing the latest in scientific heating and sanitation.

The building is situated on an eminence from which the spacious grounds in front slope gently to the roadway and on towards the shore. The prospect from the balconies, which face southwards, is enchanting, the head waters of the noble St. Lawrence being visible through openings, between the tops of magnificent trees, which cover the grounds, and the air one breathes from these balconies is always fresh and pure. The building is of limestone, four-storied, and it's wood-work is in natural grain. It is provided with steam-heating and has it's own laundry and electric lighting plants. Altogether it is an ideal institution for carrying out the purposes for which it has been designed.

About forty novices and postulants are at present in the novitiate being trained in the principles of the Religious life and formed for their future work under the wise and holy guidance of Mother Mary of the Sacred Heart (Gardiner) whose long experience in this most important work of a Religious Community, and true saintliness of character so eminently fit her for the responsible duties of her position.

Eighty children finds a home within the walls of the Orphanage, where they experience the gentle solicitude and care of the Superior Sister Mary Raphael (McCann) who, endowed by God with a love for little ones, has found, it would seem, in her present position, an opportunity for the exercise of her true vocation.

St. John's School, Kingston.

Let it be remembered that while the Mother House has shown itself very solicitous to provide distant parishes with wellqualified staffs of Religious teachers to spread God's knowledge in the hearts of youth, it has not forgotten the adage, "Charity begins at home." Almost among the first schools founded by
the Community was one in the city, where at the present day four Sisters are engaged in the divine work of teaching.

The building is high and well equipped, there being four rooms and a basement. The classes are well organized and at a future date a fifth Sister will be sent to conduct a class in the now vacant room. From the commencement of the Sisters' charge in this school a marked improvement has been very noticeable in the manner and general deportment of the children in this locality. May the effects of this self-sacrificing labor long linger in the souls of these little ones.

Our Mother of Sorrows Church.

And once more, kind reader, you are invited to visit in spirit the beautiful edifice, Our Mother of Sorrows Church, to dwell for a few moments in silent admiration of the exquisitely decorated interior. The nave with its heavy timbered roof has the walls treated simply and broadly in tones of old ivory and subdued green. This soft tone has made an excellent back-ground for the Stations of the Cross. The lower band and upper section of walls has been ornamented with well drawn gothic bands in colors harmonizing with the wall colors, the whole giving an effect of refined and subdued harmony, emphasizing the jewel-like effect of the artistic stained glass windows, the gifts of kind benefactors. In the beautiful sanctuary the color scheme is of ivory and gold. The grained roof panels have gilded relief ornaments of crockett bands springing from the cornice line and growing upwards in conformity with the soaring tendency of gothic art. In the narrower apsidal panels are painted figures of angels in adoration. The other roof panels have subjects illustrative of the Divine Mysteries. Under the windows the spandrels within enclosing foliations, have selected symbolic devices in gold, shaded with scrolls lettered with inscriptions in Latin text.

This devotional and inspiring Holy of Holies is but an image of what the Hidden God should have, but He will accept of it, as

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it has been raised through the efforts of noble minds and humble hearts, many of whom have gone to see Him, face to face, and others who still linger round His earthly throne in their dearly loved Mother House, daily uniting in spirit with their far distant missionary Sisters to implore His Divine blessing on the broad field of work that has been sown, and to beg a long continuance of the same through the loving intercession of their Immaculate Queen, their Mother of Sorrows.

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OUR JUBILEE.

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Our Jubilee! That phrase brings to our minds Long years of service in Our Masters cause-Long as the world computes-but still how short When our thoughts turn unto that other Life, And then forget the cares of this, our world ! So after fifty years do we rejoice That God has prospered us and made us grow In stature and extent to further serve Him through His poor. 'Thankful, indeed are we. That God has given us this work to do. And blessed us in the deed. From seedling small Profuse, abundant has the harvest been But all we owe to God. His blessings flowed Upon each project from that happy day-(To our loved house that day of long ago)---When that strong-hearted four began the work Of charity upon a Bishop's call, And builded well the base on which we grew. Hence thanks we give, on this our jubilee. To God for blessings manifold, and bid Our friends to join us in our heart-felt joy.

Deaths in the Community.

IT MUST not be understood that such brilliant advancement as recorded above, has continued with no sorrows to mar the onward progress.

The Community was yet in its infancy when God took from its limited number five most promising young subjects, all of whom were interred in the vault under St. Mary's Cathedral.

Sister Mary of the Sacred Heart (Sarah Byrne) and her sister, Sister Mary Francis Xavier (Catherine Byrne) were the first called to their heavenly reward after a short life led in the vineyard of their holy Spouse.

Sister Mary Patrick (Sarah McKinley) the next among the deceased, though not of a robust constitution, did not spare herself in the service of the poor and took more than one long hard collecting tour for their support. She died at the early age of twenty-seven and was laid beside her dearly-beloved ones in the Cathedral vault, awaiting the resurrection when death will be exchanged for immortality.

Not two years later Sister Mary Guardian Angel (Mary McGowan) of a gentleness and amiability of character that attracted all to her, was the next to prepare for death. Having no desire to live, she patiently awaited death to summon her to a better life. On Aug. 29, 1879, she breathed forth her young soul into the hands of her Creator.

Mary Austin, Sister Mary Veronica, the first candidate from the Diocese of Springfield, entered the Novitiate in 1874 and to her great satisfaction she made holy Profession two years later. But her delicate constitution forefold that her sojourn was not to be of long duration. True enough, she enjoyed only one





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short hour in the Community room, the first and last hour she passed there. Early in 1880, in the twenty-eighth year of her age, she closed her eyes, to this mortal life, and was laid with her religious co-laborers who had gone before.

The happy death of loved Sister Mary Teresa (Mary Cleary), who departed this life after a short illness, is commemorated Oct. 12, 1881. It was plain to be seen that what Sister M. Teresa did, was done under the eye of God, with the soul view to His glory. It was with unwearied patience and a marked self-forgetfulness, that she prepared the First Communicants of that year. She resumed her class work as usual in Sept. of 1881, but ere the month passed she showed signs of indisposition. Only one week's attack of typhoid was sufficient to weaken her constitution to death's door. The Community was assembled and while supplicating the Heavenly Courts for aid in her last struggle she quietly breathed her pure soul in peace to God. Her remains were placed on the eve of St. Teresa's Feast in the cemetery at Holyoke.

During the next decade of years the Angel of Death visited the Community no less than eight times, taking some of its most active and promising subjects.

Mother Mary John (Ellen O'Donnell) who had learned the sweetness derived from suffering, and who always showed the true spirit of the Institute, died in August of '83. She was endowed with a courageous spirit, great energy and strong will power. She filled successively the offices of Mistress of Novices and Superior, and in the discharge of these duties she became endeared to all. Her death was followed in three years time by Sr. M. Vincent de Paul (Julia Stafford) who was as a ministering Angel to the destitute and suffering, and was mourned by rich and poor, widow and orphan, who were inconsolable at the news of her death.

The month of the Holy Rosary called for another sacrifice in the death of Sister Mary Agnes (Catherine McCummiskey) who at the early age of thirty-one, gladly gave her pure soul up to her God.

Only three months had passed when God again called to Himself a young and pious religious, Sister Mary Catherine [Mary Doyle] whose charity fervor and patience were a great edification to her Sisters in religion.

Sister Mary Aloysius [Mary Ann Swift] who, during her religious life, held the responsible offices of Mistress of Novices and General Secretary, was a source of joy and good cheer to those with whom she lived. But her life was of short duration. Late in September of 1888, she submitted with a loving sweetness to the Divine Will of her Maker, in leaving her mortal life to commence a life that will last forever.

Little did Sister Flora McInnis feel that on entering the House of Providence she would not live to make Profession. She faithfully observed the regulations of the Novitiate and was always anxious to give comfort to the destitute. Divine Providence willed that she should die a postulant, and though her death was very sudden it was not, thank God, unprovided, and it cannot be doubted that this young aspirant is with the Heavenly Hosts who adore incessantly around the great White Throne.

Young, full of hope and of a most refined character, Alice O'Halloran in religion, Sister Mary Patrick, entered the Providence Novitiate, being then twonty-one years of age. It was in caring for the little orphans that this loved Sister displayed such solid virtues and affectionate disposition. Her sweet child-like love of the Blessed Virgin and her remarkable purity of heart, were most admirable. She lived only a short time, but long enough to endear her to all. She was loved by every one, and it is not necessary to say that frequent and fervent are the Requiescat in Pace's, repeated for dear Sister Mary Patrick. The next loss came on Sept. 5th, 1891, when Sister Mary Alphonsus (Margaret Ryan) was called to a home of infinite joys. She was of a kind upright and cheerful disposition, and was frequently heard to say, "If we are faithful in small things, we shall be faithful in that which is greater, which motto she tried faithfully to work by.

And next is recorded the death of one whose name is intimately united to the history of the Institute, Mother Mary of Mt. Carmel (Ellen Byrne) She has been regarded as a pillar of the Community. Always taking an active part in its disciplinary regulations. She held in succession the responsible offices of Assistant, General Treasurer, Superior General and General Assistant, and it was while exercising the duties of these offices that her virtues rendered her forever worthy of the love and veneration of her Community, and of an immortal remembrance by her Sisters who are left to mourn her loss.

Sister Mary Bernard [Ellen Fox] the next called on to depart from this life died in 1894, having proved herself in her services of the aged and orphan to be a genuine Sister of Charity.

Just two short years had passed when another cherished Sister, Sister M. of the Cross (Elizabeth Keating) a devoted co-laborer, passed from this vale of tears to her home beyond the grave. Her self-sacrifice, her burning zeal and her heroic courage in time of trials shone very brightly from her young soul, and it cannot be doubted that she now enjoys the blessings and peace so often implored for her by the old and poor whom she cared for so tenderly.

It was at day-break, June 28, 1896, that Sister M. Bernadette [Catherine Dougherty] offered her heart to God in death as she had done so lovingly in life, having manifested in her short career generosity, perfect neatness in everything she did, and a marked good order wherever she was placed.

This same year marks the death of a pious young sister, Sister M. Beatrice [Catherine Casey] whose modesty and unaffected gravity rendered her a model to her companions and a consolation to her Superiors. She lived for God and died in His grace and love, wearing on her still features the calm beauty born of a holy life and a holy death.

The Feast of the Purification of Our Virgin Mother, is the anniversary of Sister M. Regina's (Mary Ellen Quinn) death. This young Sister was possessed of a genial disposition. She always displayed a genuine interest in the general welfare of the Community, and was considered on Mission as a living sunbeam sent to dispel the day's toils and contradictions. The solemn funeral service for this dear Sister was the first chanted in the new church, where all had assembled to pay their last tributes to one so much lamented and so dearly loved.

Great was the sorrow that prevailed throughout the Community when their deeply loved Sister Mary of Mercy (Johanna O'Connor) was summoned by the Angel of Death to leave her scenes of labor and go to enjoy an everlasting reward. She was a sister of Rev. T. P. O'Connor, Pastor of Napanee, and was, during her mortal life as an angel of peace and sweetness, always ready to minster to the sufferer, the attention needed, not forgetting to whisper devout aspirations to the Heavenly Physician of all ills.

The year of 1900 witnessed the death of a most highly esteemed Sister, Sister M. of the Assumption (Mary J. Macdonell) who possessed an amiability of character and goodness of heart that have earned the affectionate rememberance of her Institute. Though but a short time had elapsed since her holy Profession till her death, she had in that brief time displayed a generosity of spirit that will make her ever memorable. Her death was followed by that of Sister Mary Leo (M. A. Fogarty) a virtuous young religious who was lovingly cherished by her Community. Her love of holy poverty and obedience to rule were very prominent virtues shown by her, and she might be justly titled, the "Defender of the Rule." May the bright example of her virtues and the remembrance of her kind deeds serve to sweeten the trials of her co-laborers and render them worthy to meet her again in the heaven of eternal felicity.

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At the close of the fortieth year of its history the Death Record of the Institute comprises on the bead-roll of sanctified souls, twenty-three cherished members, and sadly is the new era. prefaced by a loving tribute in memory of a pious young religious, Sister M. Patrick [Mary Agnes Donovan]. In the vineyard of Christ she cared for the orphans with great kindness, and to the aged and afflicted with a tenderness almost incredible. The Community early recognized the superior qualities that characterized the youthful soul, and placed her in the responsible position of Assistant, Secretary and Bursar of St. Vincent de Paul Hospital. but it is not for her ability and her intellectual gifts that she will be remembered but for her cherry disposition and warmness of heart, her unaffected piety and zeal for the glory of God. Just ten months since death had visited the Community, elapsed when a precious young religious whose life-span though short, had merited an enduring place in the recollection of her Sisters, was crowned by a beautiful death. This was Sister Mary Veronica [Maud Dennee] whose humble submission and reverence for the voice of God, through Superior, characterized her in the pursuit of her noble calling. In the class-room she was revered, ever benign and wholly religious. Her vigilance and promptness in every thing pretaining to school and pupils signalized her as a successful teacher, and it is hoped that the remembrance of her good deeds will secure many a fervent prayer for the repose of her soul.

On the evening of September 29, 1903, cold death again invaded the ranks of this religious family and took from their midst one who may be designated a Perfect Religious, Sister Mary Rose, of Lima (Mary Brickley). It was particularly in trying circumstances that she gave good example, ever counselling hor companions to be silent under real or imaginary injustice. In February she departed from the Brockville Mission where she had most devotedly labored in the hospital and office of Secretary, and ere seven months had passed this valuable life was gently and peacefully brought to a close, and her virgin soul fied to the realms of bliss and happiness above.

Would that this and chronicle might here be brought to a close, and the curtain be drawn upon what next ensued. But no ! God willed it otherwise.

He had guarded from the day of her Profession and prepared this chosen Spouse of His Divine Son, Mother Mary Edward (Catherine McKinley) to be the loved Mother and main support of His noble community, and to-day it was His divine Will that she should receive her well-merited crown.

Mother Mary Edward was dead ! A thrill of sorrow chilled each heart as this sad news was hastily wired from house to house.

She who had shown such active zeal from the day she was left the guiding star of the community by the departure of the Foundresses, she who had displayed such a motherly love for every member of her Institute was now cold in death. That great mind that had so ably solved many and many a plan for the advancement of her cherished Community, that great heart that had taken into its fond embrace, not only her devoted subjects, but the needy, the poor and the homeless were now stilled forever more.

Heart-breaking as was the grief of the stricken Sisters, they did not so soon forget the lessons of their late Mother M. Edward. Sweetly resigned and wholly patient as she had always exemplified herself, in time of bitter trials, they in like manner accepted the chalice and calmly prayed, "Not our will but thine be done."

Possessing a most brilliant intellect and rare qualities of character, she was all her life in the prominent office of Superior, being Superior General for three terms and then Superior of St. Peter's Convent, Trenton, where she died Nov. 21, 1904.

A Mother who was so truly loved in life must be truly loved in death, and it is a consolation to remember that she who so tenderly labored for her children in this life will not be the less watchful and lavish in her affection from her starry home beyond the skies.



Another young aspirant who had not yet pronounced her final vows, Sister Bridget (Ellen Hynes) was next called from her devoted labor of caring the infirm and aged. Her life had been faithfully passed in serving God in the persons of His poor, and after passing only a few but happy years in religion, she has gone to join her kind Sisters in heaven, who wear the crowns their works have carned.

The Feast of the Annunciation, 1905, was rendered sadiy memorable by the early and sudden death of Sister Mary Raphael (Catherine Slavin). She was in truth one of the best loved and devoted members of the Institute, but it was especially to the Sisters of the Mission house in Brockville where her death occured, that she was particularly endeared. In Sister Mary Raphael's life we have an exquisite blending of labor and prayer; she followed in the busy footsteps of Martha zeal serving the poor and lowly, without however, neglecting to nourish the soul with Mary's restful spirit in holy meditation and pious aspirations. In death a calm serenity beamed on her angelic countenance expressing the candor, modesty and goodness which characterized her during life. May her soul now enjoy the sweet company of the Mother of God, whom she so strongly loved during life.

Fittingly compared to the rose ruthlessly plucked in life's summer morn, was the primal bloom of Sister Mary Rita's (Catherine Cournoyier) life in God's garden—the religious state. For scarcely had this amiable young novice pledged her sacred vows to her Heavenly Bridegroom to labor among Christ's distressed members, when to the grief of the Community, the voice of the Divine Reaper summoned her innocent soul to the glories of heaven. She was a "Victim of Charity" for it was while waiting on a fever patient outside the convent, that this lovable Sister contracted the disease which terminated her young life March 11th, 1906.

The painful wound of separation was barely healed, when, God, Whose ways are not our ways, demanded from His precious chosen band, whom He had so recently called on for a sacrifice their reverend and gentle Mother Mary Scholastica (Bridget McDonnell). For eleven years, she had been the Superior General and during this term as well as in other responsible offices, she had drawn hearts to love her, by her sweet affable manner, and her strong character of sterling worth. Regardless of the prayers offered by the Priests and Sisters, the poor and orphans, all of whom held her in such exalted esteem, Mother M. Scholastica camly resigned herself to the Will of her Creator, and the consoling memory on her death-bed that God knew she had done her best, in the execution of her weighty responsibilities, patiently awaited the moment of her release from the prison walls of the flesh.

On Feburary 11th, 1907, in the presence of the sorrowing Community, she sweetly breathed her Spirit into the keeping of Her heavenly Spouse to hear the consoling invitation so well deserved "Come thou blessed of my Father, possess the kingdom prepared for you unto life everlasting."

Again did the Community witness the cold grasp of death in the demise of Sister Mary Ganzaga (Margaret Oliver) whose fervent career of generous service in the works of Charity was brought to an end on February 28, 1909.

Gentle but cheerful during her life she still maintained the same spirit during her last illness, and in fact the patience and loving resignation with which this dear Sister accepted her call to give up her young and useful life was an admirable example to her companions and a becoming close to the beautiful life she had led. May her pure soul rest in peace.

Our Jubilee year has been saddened by the Angel of death, taking from us our lovely young Sister, Mary Madeline (Mary Gourdier). Her career of usefulness was but begun when disease began to pray upon her delicate form, and soon our sorrowing Community was left to mourn the loss of one whom many among the Sisters had loved and cherished from childhood. Joyfully and longingly did she, during her illness, look forward to the supreme moment when her pure soul would be released from its earthly prison. She passed most peacefully away on November 15th, 1911.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE.

Our friends.

PON this retrospect of fifty years we gratefully acknowledge the unselfish assistance and whole-hearted co-operation of those, who have sympathized with our work, and in a most practical way. It is impossible for such a long period of timefifty years—to pass, in the life of an individual or institution, without that individual or institution meeting many, whose hearts God has filled with the "Milk of human Kindness," and whom He has designed in His providence to be the benefactors of their kind. Signally favored have we, the Sisters of Charity, been in this respect. Though the road to us has been, humanly speaking, at times somewhat rough and unhewn, we have met many of these, God's chosen, who have appreciated our efforts and helped in a substantial way to make our journey smoother.

Particularly thankful are we to those who have been at the head of the Diocese during these fifty years—the Bishops and Archbishops. Under their benign guidance we have progressed thus far, overcoming many difficulties. On all occasions have they given us encouragement, and taken an interest in the work of the institution that has helped to make things easier of accomplishment. To the parish priests of the diocese we owe a debt of gratitude for their co-operation, particularly in the annual quest within their parishes; without their kindly interest and thoughtfulness the work of the Sisters upon these quests would have been much more onerous than they have been.

But among our greatest benefactors we must place those who have filled the office of Spiritual Director to our sisterhood. No position holds greater responsibility than this, nor calls for more continuous exercise of prudence and good judgment. Grateful, indeed, are we to the Rev. P. A. Twohey [deceased], Rev. Thos. Spratt, Rev. J. P. Kehoe, Rev. C. J. Mea, past Directors, and to the Rev. A. J. Hanley, our present Spiritual adviser, for able counsel in our spiritual needs.

And lastly, we gratefully subscribe our thankfulness to those members of the medical profession, who have given their services freely and cheerfully during the many years since our foundation. To the Hor. Senator Sullivan, M.D., and Dr. Wafer [deceased], who were our medical advisers in the early days of our institution, and to Dr. Phelan, who acted as Medical adviser to the Sisters for over a quarter of a century, we are particularly grateful. They hold a deep place in our respect and esteem, from which years cannot remove them. And to those other members of the Medical profession, who have generously donated their time, both in the delivering of lectures to the Sisters-in-training and in giving medical advice we offer our grateful acknowledgements. They are: Dr. Ryan, Dr. Morrison, $Dr._{sc}^{*}O'Connor, Dr.$ Hanley, Dr. McCarthy and Dr. Gibson.

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