

A GOVERNOR TESTIFIES TO THE GREAT WORK DONE BY THE SISTERS.

Sir Gerald Strickland, Governor of New South Wales, in moving the adoption of the report at the 24th annual meeting, May 21, 1912, said: 'I feel that I do not know a tithe of the good work that others are doing in this State. I feel that all of us would be better in mind, at least, if not in body, by studying the self-sacrifice and the skill and devotion to duty of the good Sisters, who are giving health and strength, and happiness within these walls. Going through the institution it is clear that there is an incentive that inspires the working thereof. The Sisters are laboring for higher ideals, and look for their reward, not in this world, but in the next. Here they are serving their Master and making the most of their lives, and an appreciation of this ideal performs a grateful aseptic cure in my mind, as in the minds of all who come in contact with it.'

A celebrated medical man from Home having visited their hospitals says: 'The thing that strikes the visitor very forcibly is the all-round superiority of the Catholic hospital. It would be difficult to exaggerate the general excellence of these institutes and their perfect order and cleanliness: also the brightness and cheerfulness of the wards. Somehow one is apt to think of the Nursing Sister who has renounced the world as perfection, possibly, but a perfection tinged with some degree of austerity. In their wards, at any rate, the perfection is there without the austerity.'

RAPID PROGRESS AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Besides the houses in Australia and New Zealand, the Nursing Sisters have opened branches in several parts of England, in Limerick and Cork in Ireland, in Chicago in the United States, in Africa, and at Buenos Aires, and the Island of Malta. Altogether they have about twenty hospitals and over 500 trained Sisters.

The infant branch of the Congregation at Lewisham, Bealey avenue, Christchurch, has already earned for itself, by the excellency of its equipment and the efficiency of its nursing staff, something of the fame attached to the parent institution at Lewisham.

Dr. Taylor Young, in seconding the resolution for the adoption of the annual report, stated that in his opinion the Nursing Sisters were, as it were, hiding their light under a bushel. If this hospital and the great work it does were more generally known, the Sisters would soon have to be increased considerably. At the late Science Congress, his former Professor of Surgery, who attended, expressed a wish to see the Lewisham Hospital, and he was naturally anxious to hear the opinion of his old teacher. The Professor informed him that he had seen no hospital at Home or abroad better conducted or more up to date. He

further stated that hitherto it was the custom for Australians to visit the old world centres with a view to keeping abreast of the times. In the future he thought it would well repay British practitioners to visit Australian centres as he had done.

What is the secret of their success?

Those who devote themselves in the world to the task of nursing, devote themselves to a noble profession where much kindness, skill, and attention are required. For the Nursing Sisters' faith shows us something more than this. It presents them to us as fulfilling not only a noble profession, but a vocation, aye, a Divine vocation too. How else can we explain the tenderest care given the physical needs even the most humanly revolting of all patients whether Jew or Gentile, Catholic or Protestant, leaving their religious beliefs sacredly alone. Is it not because they behold the image of their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in the person of the suffering and afflicted whom they treat with not only motherly affection but with a true religious reverence.

The sufferings and afflictions of poor fallen humanity are the sole claims upon their Christian charity.

Alas! Alas! the Nursing Sisters, like the Sisters of the Good Shepherd and the Sisters of Nazareth, are greatly hampered for want of more accommodation. They are daily obliged to refuse patients because of the lack of room. It would be a noble act of charity to come to their assistance by legacies or otherwise. They propose erecting at once a ward wherein to receive and treat a few who are wholly deprived of means. Let us not forget that our Lord has lovingly promised as done to Himself whatever is done to those who so well represent Him in their afflictions.

In virtue of special faculties received from the Holy See, we hereby grant the following dispensations:—

1st. Permission for flesh meat at dinner only, on all Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, and also on all Saturdays.

2nd. Lard and dripping may be used at dinner on days of fast and abstinence during Lent, and throughout the year, except on the first and last Wednesdays of Lent and Good Friday.

3rd. Butter, milk, cheese, and eggs are allowed on all days at dinner and collation, with the exception of Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

4th. Fish and flesh are not allowed at the same meal during Lent.

There is neither fast nor abstinence on Sundays in Lent, nor on March 17.

All who have completed their twenty-first year are bound to fast and abstain, unless excused by the state of their health or the nature of their employment, according to the regulations stated above, and all who have arrived at the use of reason, though not bound to

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