THE GUILD OF ST. BARNABAS

IN CHARGE OF

S. M. DURAND

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ORANGE, N. J.—April has been a somewhat busy month with us. To begin at the end of things and go backward, the regular service and meeting was held on the 28th at the Church of the Holy Communion, South Orange. A special call had been made for a good attendance, but, unfortunately, it poured rain, which prevented many from being present. By previous arrangements we had the pleasure of greeting Dr. Sendler, from Brooklyn, who came, as he expressed it, to "soak in" information about the scheme which had been under discussion at the General Council. We feared that the inhospitable rain was the most thorough soaking he was likely to obtain, as we assembled rather for further discussion of the "Relief" scheme, than to give any more detailed plan of execution. We feel very keenly that some well-defined plan should be afoot for the relief of the nurse when she falls on evil days, but time and much thought will be consumed before the venture can be made, assured though we are that it is a thing that will surely be accomplished. The ladies of the church gave a pleasant reception at the close of the meeting and we wished the time had been twice as long. On Saturday, April 16, Mr. Ronald Grant gave an organ recital at Grace Church, his selections being greatly enjoyed by all who were able to be present. The sewing meeting held at the Training-School on April 14 was noted as having been the best attended of any in the series and much work was accomplished. April 7 will be remembered as the date of a delightful reception given by Mrs. William H. Williams at her residence, 303 Essex Avenue. Several of the associates received with her, and a large number of nurses availed themselves of the hours from four to six to enjoy her hospitality and the pleasure of meeting one another, which, indeed, is not the least attractive part of these social gatherings.

Boston.—The April meeting of the Boston Branch was held at St. Andrew's Church on the evening of the 27th. Owing to the inclemency of the weather the attendance was not large, but the occasion was very cheerful and pleasant, and all were glad to welcome Miss Murray and hear of her mission work at White Rocks. It has already been related in former notes how Indian babies are rescued from being buried with their mothers, and Miss Murray brought with her on her trip East one of these sturdy survivors, who will awaken interest in all who see him. The resignations of three associates were regretfully accepted. Mr. Kidner, the rector of St. Andrews, presided in Mr. Bishop's absence. The present week, and, indeed, this whole month, is full of festivals, as the "great forty days" ends with Ascension Day, falling this year on May 12, and the feasts of Whitsunday and Trinity Sunday also occur in May. It may interest some of the nurses in Boston to hear about the Patronal Festival of St. John the Evangelist, which is this week being celebrated at St. John's, Bowdoin Street. There are a

goad many nurses in this congregation, and we hope many of them were present last Sunday. After the procession and singing of the hymn, "Glorious City, Heavenly Salem," the rector, Father Osborne, preached on the life of St. John the Evangelist, saying that the main lesson to be drawn from the heroic labors of this "beloved apostle" was that through sacrifice he attained to the Beatific Vision. This sacrifice was not a grudging one, but was entered into and carried on in such a perfect union with his Master that it seemed the most simple and natural thing to do. St. John did not, even in the beginning, question and waver, nor did he ask to see the whole of his task, or even the end of it. Before he was called to be one of the twelve he did what his father had brought him up to do,—that is, he followed the simple calling of a fisherman,—and when the Master's voice bade him "Follow me," he still obeyed that higher call, gaining an "iron strength to strength" with the same unquestioning faith and obedience. In his persecutions, his trial of expected martyrdom, his exile to Patmos, and, finally, in his long and lonely bishopric at Ephesus, where he was kept an earth so many years after his beloved fellow-apostles had gone before, the spirit of loving submission was still the same. To enter into and understand this spirit is the Christian's surest safeguard in trial and temptation. In the world we must have tribulation, we all know this, but to taste the sweetness of sacrifice is only given to those who, like the beloved John, simply, day by day, follow the Higher Will, which leads them, slowly, painfully perhaps, but surely and safely, to the attainment of their highest hopes and dearest aspirations. These lessons are those that come home to us all the more nearly when we think of our own festival of St. Barnabas, with its message of loving service, and we hope that we may keep it in joy and gladness, feeling the greatness of our gift of mercy—that quality which is "twice blest," as "blessing him that gives and him that takes."

BROOKLYN.—At the March meeting of the Brooklyn Branch of the Guild of St. Barnabas the topic of discussion was that of the missionary nurse. After considering the question carefully, it was decided to present it again at the next meeting in order to learn the mind of the majority, the resolution passed at the council in Hartford having been read by the chaplain. Another topic of interest was same means of increasing the building fund. Miss Sutcliffe, who for eighteen years has filled the office of superintendent of the Long Island College Hospital, will retire on May 1 and take up her residence in South Norwalk, Conn. Three of the nurses, who have filled the term of twenty-one, twelve, and nine years respectively, have also resigned their positions, and two of them have opened a nurses' house a short distance from the hospital. One of the members present gave an interesting account of her three months at duty at Butler, Pa., during the typhoid epidemic. She said one could not speak too highly of the chairman of the committee, Mr. J. N. Moore, a lawyer, who gave up his business and worked day and night for the public good; he showed a wonderful talent for remembering the minutest details, and could call each member by name, and made it his duty to provide for the special necessities of each one, carefully picking up the threads and converting the whole into a magnificent piece of work. The nurses were given comfortable, clean beds in a large dormitory, and meals were provided three times a day by the ladies of the Second Presbyterian Church; night suppers were also provided upon application of those requiring the same, and free transportation over the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad to their homes.

It was not only the nurses who were so well cared for, but the people at large, rich and poor alike. The nurses in many instances remained on duty for forty-eight hours. The work was not confined to the epidemic alone, but various diseases developing in the same family were treated in like manner, as well as the complications arising. One instance cited was that of a consumptive man, whose whole household were attacked with typhoid. The Relief Committee took charge, paying all expenses, even to that of providing a servant. One member died, but the man survived. Food, bedding, clothing, delicacies, and even presents for families were paid for by the same. One case was reported as having five reinfections; another, after a normal temperature of twelve days, became reinfected, and two nurses were detained under the strictest care. One Water Company sent two carloads of pure water. The amount of water consumed may be judged when it is understood that the Relief Committee paid one thousand dollars for the return of water bottles. The State furnished all disinfectants. Dr. Batt personally conducted this matter. Each nurse is to receive an engraved certificate, which will be greatly appreciated.

THE ABUSE OF FLAT-FOOT SUPPORTS.—WISNER R. TOWNSEND protests against the too common habit of treating flat-foot by various forms of support without consulting a surgeon. Errors in diagnosis are easily made, and osteitis of tarsus or ankle, metatarsalgia, neuralgia, or an inflammatory concretion of the parts about the inner side of the foot have been mistaken for flat-foot. In one case a sarcoma of the sole of the foot was treated for some time by braces. Moreover, when flat-foot exists, it does not necessarily follow that a support must be applied, for there are contraindications known to the profession, such as extreme spasm, extreme deformity, or inflammatory conditions. Another damage resulting from the indiscriminate use of supports is that many cases, mild in type and easily cured by medical men, are allowed to grow worse, and the patient may become so seriously crippled that operation may be needed, or the case be incurable. The supports may not fit, may not support at all, and may increase, or even produce, deformity. Supports bought by the patient who is his own surgeon cannot be suitable when the principles of the disease are not understood.—*American Journal of Orthopaedic Surgery.*

THE THERAPEUTIC POSSIBILITIES OF RADIUM.—In an editorial on this subject the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* says in the *British Medical Journal* Mr. John MacIntyre writes briefly in continuation of a previous article on work which he has done. He found that lupus and rodent ulcers were very favorably affected by exposure to the rays of radium. Mr. Frederic Soddy suggests the possibility of applying the rays of radium and thorium to the treatment of consumption. The theory being that inhalation of radium solution gives rise to the formation of a film of radio-active matter which persists for a certain definite time, it is conceived possible that radium would continue to exert its activity in the air-cells of the patient's lungs after the emanations themselves had been exhaled.