

Cites Extensive Wartime Sacrifices, Adjustments Of Our Catholic Hospitals

ST. LOUIS—(N. C.)—Catholic hospitals are making extensive adjustments, modifications and sacrifices to meet the needs of a nation at war, the Rev. Alphonsus M. Schwitalla, S. J., President of the Catholic Hospital Association of the United States and Canada, points out in his foreword to the latest directory of Catholic hospitals.

Thomas F. Meehan, 87, Catholic Writer, Dies

BROOKLYN — Thomas Francis Meehan, historian, Associate Editor of America, and for several decades one of the leading Catholic journalists of the United States, has died at his home here. He was 87, and had continued active in Catholic historical and literary work until a week before his death. Mr. Meehan became prominent in Catholic literary and historical circles almost 50 years ago, and through the last half-century his activities were extended without interruption. At his death, in addition to his post with America, National Catholic weekly, he was President of the United States Catholic Historical Society and a Knight of St. Gregory the Great, an honor he received from Pope Pius XI in 1921.

Requiem Mass was celebrated for Mr. Meehan in All Saints' Church here this morning. Born in Brooklyn on September 19, 1854, Mr. Meehan was graduated from the College of St. Francis Xavier, New York, in 1875 and received a post-graduate degree there the following year. For most of the next 30 years he was Managing Editor of The Irish American, a weekly publication founded by his father, Patrick J. Meehan.

While in that post he acted as New York correspondent for De Massabode, of Rotterdam, one of the world's leading Catholic dailies, and for leading secular dailies in Baltimore, Philadelphia and Richmond, Va. From 1894 to 1906 he was on the editorial staff of The New York Herald.

When the "Catholic Encyclopedia" was first projected in the early years of this century, Mr. Meehan served as an adviser and became Assistant Managing Editor in 1906. He supervised publication of the first five volumes and wrote historical articles for all fifteen volumes.

First Blood Plasma Clinic Held In Catholic Hospital

DAVENPORT, Ia. — Mercy Hospital, cooperating with the Scott County Medical Association, medical division of the County Defense Council, today held Davenport's first blood plasma clinic. More than 100 persons have offered their services as donors.

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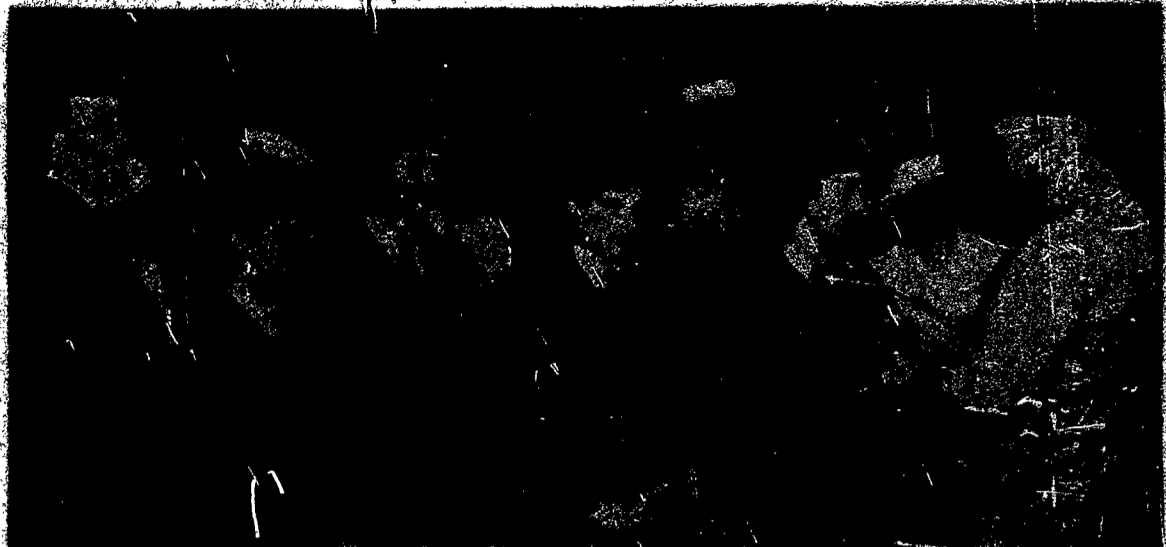
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NURSES CITED FOR BATAAN BRAVERY



For bravery at Bataan and Corregidor, 15 Red Cross Army nurses returned from the Philippines are decorated. In this picture, Maj. Gen. James G. Magaw, Surgeon General of the Army, pins the medals on a group of six nurses, with Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt (background). Among those pictured above are two Catholic nurses, Lieut. Florence Macdonald, of Brooklyn, Mass. (third from right), and Lieut. Dorothy Daley, of Hamilton, Mo. (second from right). Other Catholic nurses decorated, but not appearing in this picture were: Lieut. Helen Loretta Summers, Brooklyn, and Lieut. Beth A. Voley, San Jose, Calif. (N.C.W.C.)

Bishop Kearney Presides At Cenacle Jubilee Rites

BROOKLYN—With His Excellency, the Most Rev. James E. Kearney, Bishop of Rochester presiding, closing day ceremonies of the Golden Jubilee Triduum marking fifty years of service of the Religious of Our Lady of the Cenacle in America were held Sunday.

Bishop Kearney of Rochester presided at the closing Mass in the Grotto on the grounds of the Provincial House and Novitiate of the Congregation at Lake Ronkonkoma, L. I., at 8 A. M. and preached the sermon.

The Ordinary of the Rochester diocese again presided at ceremonies at 4 P. M. and celebrated Solemn Pontifical Benediction closing the ceremony. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Edward Lodge Curran, pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Brooklyn.

Throughout the week, hundreds of women who have made retreats at the Cenacle were guests of the Sisters and participated in religious services which commemorated the passing of fifty years since four Religious of Our Lady

Bataan Hero's Last Letter Read To Nurses

WASHINGTON—A hero's last and bravest letter was read to a group of nurses who were decorated for their bravery at Bataan and Corregidor. The letter was written by an unnamed American officer in the last few hours of the struggle and it was intended for his wife. The letter was read by Col. Leon Gardner at the luncheon for the nurses at the National Press Club here honoring 15 Army nurses decorated for meritorious service at Bataan and Corregidor. Most of whom are Catholics.

These nine nurses were presented with their service ribbons at the luncheon by Colonel Gardner with Col. Julia Filkins, Superintendent of the Army Nurse Corps, and their citations. The first decorated was Lt. Helen Loretta Summers, of Minneapolis Medical Park, Brooklyn. Lt. Beth A. Voley is a member of Sacred Heart parish, San Jose, Calif. The six nurses who received citations last week in a ceremony at Red Cross headquarters here, were proudly displaying new shoulder bars. Having been promoted to the rank of first lieutenant, the two Catholic members of this group are Lieut. Florence Macdonald and Dorothy Daley.

Friends for More Nurses

Mrs. Mary Beard, Director of Nursing Service, American Red Cross, spoke on the task confronting her department of supplying monthly 2,500 nurses for the Army and 200 for the Navy. She appealed to the press to emphasize the twofold need of graduate nurses for the armed forces and student nurses to replace them in the hospitals and to meet civilian demands.

Colonel Gardner made a hurried trip to the War Department during the luncheon for a copy of the letter of the unnamed officer.

"Dear Mother and Dad," he wrote. "This letter may never be delivered. It will go to Corregidor and there wait for transportation. Perhaps I will be able to see you before it arrives."

"About the war I can say nothing. I am proud to be a part of the fight that is being made here, and would not even if it were possible leave here until it is all over and we have won. As we inevitably will. By we I mean my comrades."

"Bataan will fall, but the eventual outcome of the war is determined."

"I have seen some terrible things happen and have had my share of narrow escapes, but I have also seen some wonderful acts of courage, sacrifice and loyalty. At least I have found that for which I have searched all my life: a cause and a job in which I can lose myself completely, and to which I can give every ounce of my strength and my mind."

Statistics show that 10 per cent of the people who take service escape the bad odds they would have had, anyway. — The Nation, July 15.

Hasty War Marriages Seen As Preparing Way For Flood Of Post-War Divorces

(By N.C.W.C. News Service)

Hasty war marriages are not only impairing the efficiency of our fighting men — for bachelors are better fighters than married ones — but they are also preparing the way for a flood of post-war divorces.

This and other statements about war marriages will be told by Dr. Henry A. Bowman in "Should Soldiers Marry?" in the August issue of The American Magazine.

Dr. Bowman is head of the course in Marriage and the Family at St. Stephen's College, Columbus, Mo.

"More couples were married in 1940 than in any previous year in American history," says Dr. Bowman, "but 15 per cent more couples were married in 1941 than in 1940, and this year will undoubtedly put the 1941 record on the shelf. Everybody seems to be doing his best to hasten the soldier and his girl to church. Department stores are keying their advertising to appeal to the war bride, and many communities are removing the required time lapse between license and ceremony for the benefit of service men."

"These hasty war marriages are not only impairing the efficiency of our fighting men — military authorities will tell you that a bachelor makes a much more determined and fearless fighter than a married man — but they are preparing the way for a flood of post-war divorces. Just before and just after our entrance into the first World War soldiers kept marrying just as recklessly as they are today. And just after the war we had the greatest jump in divorces in American history. The same thing will happen after this war is over — unless young people start pulling on the brakes and facing the future squarely and honestly."

"Regardless of everybody's views on divorce, a wave of unwise marriages is one luxury we can ill afford in the crucial days to follow this war. Every individual, particularly the soldier or sailor returning from service, will be taxed to the utmost to make the adjustment from a military to a civilian civilization. And divorce has never been regarded as a morale builder either for the individual concerned or for the nation."

"I'm not urging a moratorium on all military marriages for the duration. Many of our current crop of grooms are draftees and volunteers who had been planning to marry their girls for months or even years before Pearl Harbor. They are marrying, not because of the war, but in spite of it. In such marriages, based on a thorough acquaintance and an honest recognition of the difficulties ahead, there is every chance that love can survive the enforced separation. But what chance have the service men and their brides who have been calling each other sweethearts only a few days or a few weeks, and who face a prolonged separation that will fundamentally alter their personalities?"

"What makes most marriages stick is the union of mind and spirit that develops slowly out of life together. Many young people regard the few weeks before the husband is called into service as a real marriage. Actually, it's just a honeymoon."

Catholic College Arranges Free Labor Schools

CHICAGO—Loyola University is completing plans for a program of free Labor Schools, it is announced by the Rev. Ralph A. Gallagher, S.J., Director of the School of Social Administration.

Schools will be held in parishes and labor unions. Faculty members of Loyola University will conduct the classes. The purpose is to teach the fundamentals of a Christian attitude toward labor problems and labor relations.

The directory reveals that at the end of 1941 there were 286 Catholic hospitals serving the two countries. While the usual comparative statistical analysis is omitted from the directory 1942 year because of war conditions, the figures of 138 Catholic hospitals in the United States and possessions represents an increase of about one and one-half per cent over the number at the end of 1940.

At the beginning of this year the directory shows there were 259 Catholic hospitals in continental United States, 206 of them general hospitals. Those in Alaska, Hawaii, the Philippines and Puerto Rico totaled 27. In Canada and Newfoundland there were 184 Catholic hospitals.

In addition to institutions listed strictly as hospitals there were in the entire field 208 other Catholic institutions listed as "allied medical and nursing agencies." These listings include such institutions as the United States Soldiers' Home, Washington, D. C., where the hospital is not a Catholic institution but is conducted by Catholic Sisters; orphanages, homes for the aged, sanitariums, dispensaries and the like, throughout the two countries.

Of the total of such agencies, there are 203 in continental United States, 25 in its possessions and 121 in Canada. The 443 Catholic schools of nursing listed are distributed as follows: 361 in continental United States, five in U. S. possessions and 78 in Canada. In addition to these there are 15 collegiate schools of nursing in this country and one in Canada.

"All hospital statistics for the year 1941 are dominated by the outstanding fact of the relatively vast increase of Federal participation in hospital activities," Father Schwitalla points out in the foreword to the directory.

Relative Importance Decreased

Citing figures indicating the extent of this increase, Father Schwitalla states that even though Catholic hospitals show a "gratifying increase" in facilities and clientele, "the relative importance of such a group of hospitals as measured by the usual statistical criteria on a national scale is bound to decrease."

Many "gratifying features" are embodied in the data reported. Father Schwitalla writes. In addition to an appreciable increase in the number of Catholic institutions in both countries, a larger increase in bed capacity and a still larger increase in number of patients, he asserts, the financial condition of the hospitals is "better than it has been for years past."

Three factors are cited as contributing to this financial improvement: wider participation in group hospital service activities; the better paying capacity of defense workers; and "the prevalent improvement in the general economic situation."

In spite of staff reductions to meet war needs, percentage of occupancy is estimated to have increased during 1941 and to have reached 78 per cent.

Rapid staff turnovers due to the war are "unfortunate," Father Schwitalla states but "all institutions as well as persons must be ready to adapt themselves to these changed conditions in the interest of the national welfare." Every hospital, he adds, must be "aware of our obligations in fostering the war effort by increasing readiness to assume the enlarging obligations."

Educational Work Extended

While hospitals, like other institutions, "will surely be called upon for enormous sacrifices at a time such as this," he continues, "fortunately during this war effort the educational activities of the Catholic schools of nursing are being greatly intensified."

The average size of the Catholic school of nursing in the United States has increased in one year from 75 to 80 students, he states, and the entire situation in Canada parallels that in the United States. In Canada there were nine new hospitals opened in 1941.