

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 current 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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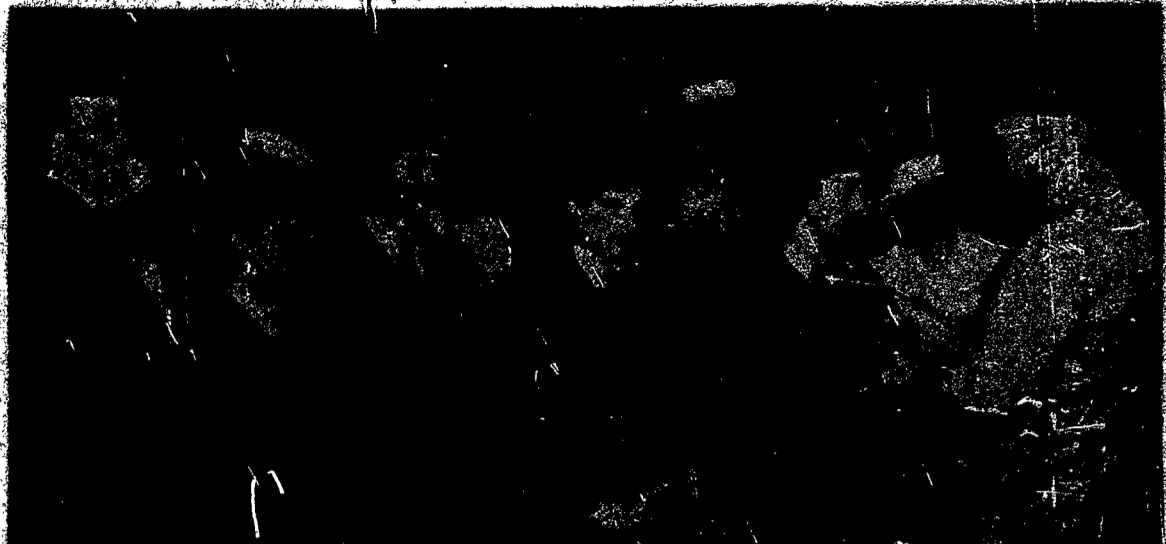
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NURSES CITED FOR BATAAN BRAVERY



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 Lorrette 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 a 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 of the Cenacle landed in New York to carry on the work of the Congregation in this country.

Since 1892, seven Cenacles have been founded by the Religious and there are now about three hundred Sisters engaged in the retreat work in the United States. The Provincial House and Novitiate at Lake Ronkonkoma is the residence of the Vicar Provincial in this country, Mother Therese de La Chapelle. The estate was the gift of the late Maude Adams, famous American actress, who donated the property to the Religious after having been impressed by the assiduous and holy labors of the Sisters with whom she had become acquainted at the Cenacle at 140th St., and Riverside Dr., Manhattan, the first Cenacle of the Congregation in 1892.

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. 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.

Bataan Hero's Last Letter Read To Nurses

WASHINGTON—A hero's last letter and a message composed by him at the hour of his death were read to a group of nurses at the Army Nurse Corps headquarters at the Pentagon today. The letter was written by an unnamed American officer in the last few hours of the struggle and it was intended for his life. The letter was read by Col. Leon Gardner of the Women's National Press Club, who is here honoring 15 Army nurses decorated for meritorious service at Bataan and Corregidor, last 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 Lorrette Summers, of Minneapolis Medical Park, Brooklyn, L. I. 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 Lt. Florence Macdonald and Dorothy Daley.

Friends for More Nurses

Miss 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 will be transportation. Perhaps I will be able to be with 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 me I mean my comrades."

"Bataan will fall, but the sentimental 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, N. Y.