

Charlottetown Hospital Opens New Pavilion Today

First General Hospital In The Province Dates From September 9, 1879

The first recorded item in the annals of the Charlottetown Hospital is a copy of a telegram sent by Bishop McIntyre to Quebec in November 1878: "Could I have Grey Nuns for hospital, 12-bed, and for visiting the sick poor and sick of the city. Kindly state conditions. Answer by telegraph." Further communications resulted in the coming to Charlottetown of six Sisters of Charity of Quebec (Grey Nuns), on September 9, 1879. Bishop McIntyre and Rev. A. McGillivray accompanied the religious from Quebec. On their arrival the Bishop presented the Superior, Mother St. Thomas, with the key of the institution, henceforth known as the Charlottetown Hospital. This, the first general hospital in the province, was opened in a house in which the Bishop had lived before the erection of the present residence, standing about where the vestry of the Basilica is now located. (The house was later removed to its present location, corner of Haviland and Dorchester Streets.)

The first medical staff had these members: Doctors Hobbkirk, Johnson, Canning, McLeod, Taylor, Beer and Conroy. The last named was appointed "House Surgeon." The first patient admitted was one James Flynn, aged 60, on October 9th, 1879. During the year 1880, 60 patients were admitted, 100 visits were made to the sick in homes and 190 persons treated at the Dispensary.

SMALLPOX EPIDEMIC

The year 1885 was made memorable by the visitation of a virulent epidemic of smallpox. It is difficult for the present generation to imagine the terror that filled all hearts as this plague raged. To the undying gratitude of the citizens the Grey Nuns nursed the victims, sending three Sisters to the place in Brighton used as a smallpox hospital. "Within a month over a hundred were admitted," say the Annals, "on one day alone the Register lists 18 admissions." In token of appreciation for the gratuitous services of the Sisters, the City Council and Board of Health voted them grants of fifty and one hundred and fifty dollars respectively.

GROWTH

It was not long before it was necessary to build an addition to the house on Dorchester St. and as the years went by that, too, proved inadequate. Since the land at that location was needed for the contemplated cathedral, it was decided to build on Dundas Esplanade, the land having been acquired previously from Owen Connolly. In 1890, Mrs. Connolly gave her residence to the Sisters of Charity to use as a boarding home, reserving two rooms for her personal use. In 1891 under direction of Rt. Rev. Bishop J.C. MacDonald, a fine frame building was erected on the Esplanade. This had a wing added in 1903, the wing which many citizens will remember as containing the large ward for men and the operating room. The work developed year by year and it would require more space that we can take here to describe adequately the devoted services of those self-sacrificing women in grey. Many of the patients were non-paying as they are today, and to meet current expenses (not to mention extraordinary) was a great problem in the days when government grants were nil or very low. To help finance the institution the nuns went out through the city and country collecting; and many men and women, now middle-aged, recall that their first glimpse of the religious garb was when the Grey Nuns came to one or other country parish.

NEW DEPARTMENTS

The Maternity Department was opened in 1918, enlarging the scope of the hospital activities. Mrs. Rose Monaghan, who passed to her eternal reward two years ago, was the fondly-remembered first supervisor.

Another progressive step was made when the School of Nursing was established in 1920 on the urging of Rt. Rev. H. J. O'Leary, then Bishop of the diocese, and later Archbishop of Edmonton. The first Directress was Sister St. Bertha, a woman well fitted for the responsible post; the foundations she laid have been in no small way the source of much of the success achieved by the school. The first graduates were:

- Evelyn Clementine Coady.
- Adie Margaret Connor.
- May Anastasia King.
- Mary Lauretta MacDonald.
- Margaret Johanna MacDonald.
- Margaret Pearl McKenna.
- Annie Ellen MacIntyre.
- Flora Margaret MacIntyre.
- Mary Melinda MacLellan.
- Anna Ethel Murphy.

At the first Graduation Exercises Dr. M. T. McEachern addressed the audience.

ORDEAL OF FIRE

"FIRE" is a frightening call but when it concerns a hospital its significance is terrifying. The Charlottetown Hospital underwent the ordeal of a fire on the morn-



Hon. Dr. W. J. P. MacMillan
Chief of Staff

ing of November 22nd, 1921, but fortunately no lives were lost nor patients injured in any way though the building was badly damaged. The Rena MacLean Hospital (Government House and annex) was generously placed at the disposal of the hospital authorities by the Provincial Government for temporary use. The damaged building was moved to a lot across the street, remodelled, and used again as a hospital until August, 1923.

CORNERSTONE LAID

The laying of the cornerstone of the present brick building took place on June 17, 1923. Bishop Louis J. O'Leary blessed the stone and his brother, Archbishop O'Leary of Edmonton, delivered a masterly address.

GREY NUNS RECALLED

Before the new building was completed, the Grey Nuns were recalled to their Motherhouse in Quebec. These admirable religious, the pioneer nurses in Prince Edward Island, had given forty-six years of zealous labor for suffering humanity in the province and genuine sorrow was manifested by all

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Voices Thanks Of Returned Men For Veterans' Wing

Mr. P. A. McLellan, Squire, President, Provincial Command Canadian Legion, B. E. S. L. writes concerning the new wing for veterans as follows:

It is impossible to express in words, the sentiments of the "Returned Men" of our Province on the occasion of the opening of this new wing for Veterans at the City Hospital, Charlottetown.

Until a few years ago, our disabled and wounded men were forced to go to the mainland for treatment and hospitalization and needless to say this procedure entailed much delay and considerable hardship before a comfortable hospital bed was reached where rest and contentment the essential requisites for successful treatment were received.

In a great many cases this delay and exposure during such a journey considerably aggravated the man's condition and further jeopardized his chances for recovery.

Unfortunately, we have today in our Province as a result of the two world conflicts a large number of young men, suffering as the inevitable result of their heroic part in these campaigns. What a relief it is to these poor chaps to realize they can be treated as successfully and in a more contented atmosphere here at home, what a satisfaction it is to those energetic citizens responsible for additional hospital accommodation in our own Province, to know that they will have the everlasting gratitude of the boys who sacrificed so much and came home wounded and broken in body and future outlook.

Today in our Country no hospital can be considered complete without the greatest possible facilities for the care and treatment of those wounded and disabled heroes.

Our City Hospital at Charlottetown has an enviable reputation throughout America. The Medical Staff both physicians and kind Sisters are most efficient and always understanding and sympathetic.

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Foreword

It gives me great pleasure, as Secretary of the Board of Governors and Chief of the Medical Staff of the Charlottetown Hospital to write a few words on this unique and memorable occasion in the life history of this Hospital.

This, the oldest Hospital in Prince Edward Island first opened its doors to patients in 1879. A large addition was erected in 1895. The old building was seriously damaged by fire in 1921. The new hospital was opened in 1925, and the new addition is being opened today.

Supporting the words of His Excellency Bishop Boyle, Chairman of the Board of Governors, I can say that the Board has taken meticulous care and spared no expense to make the new Pavilion the most up-to-date in hospital construction in this country. The type of construction is modern and designed to stand the test of time and climate. Every department of the hospital corresponds to the rigid requirements of present day hospital construction and, in fact, is way ahead in most particulars. It has been the aim and wish of the Board, supported by the Sisters in charge and the Medical Staff, to give to future patients the best possible and the latest in modern hospital construction and equipment.

We tender our sincere thanks to the Federal Department of Veterans' Affairs for its grant of \$75,000.00 for modern up-to-date accommodation for veterans, and we also tender thanks to the Federal and Provincial Departments of Health and Welfare for their grants on the basis of bed construction. We also thank all contributors, especially those paying the cost of furnishing rooms and everyone who, for years past, and for years to come, has helped and will continue to help this hospital in a financial way.

We welcome and thank our many visitors. By their presence here they show their interest in hospitals and in sick people because in no Province of Canada has more support been given for years by the public in support of our private hospitals. Our people have the happy assurance that their financial support has saved many lives and it is a fine exemplification of greatest of Christian virtues. Thank you.

DR. W. J. P. MacMILLAN,
Chief of Staff.

Pediatrics Dept. On Complete New Scale Is Planned

Plans for a complete new Pediatrics Department for the care of children under 12 years of age are now being completed. The department will be under the general supervision of Miss Ellen MacDonald, R.N., who is a graduate of the Charlottetown Hospital and who has many years experience as a Private Duty Nurse and as a Floor Supervisor. Miss MacDonald took her post graduate studies in Pediatrics at the Ottawa Civic Hospital in 1949 preparatory to taking charge of this department.

FLOOR SUPERVISION

Sister M. Camillus, R.N., is a graduate of the Charlottetown Hospital, following which she did post graduate work in general nursing at the Corey Hill Hospital, Brookline, Mass., and at the Robert Brigham Hospital also in Brookline. She entered the Sisters of St. Martha and returned to the Charlottetown Hospital in 1928 where she did general supervision. Sister M. Camillus was Administrator of the hospital between 1933-1937. She did post graduate work in Social Service at St. Elizabeth's Nursing Guild, Toronto, in 1932, and for many years was well known in this City in connection with the Social Service Department. In the past few years she returned as Supervisor of the Convalescent Department of the Charlottetown Hospital.

Sister M. Patricia, R.N., is a graduate of the Charlottetown Hospital in 1940. During the years between 1941-1948 Sister M. Patricia was floor supervisor at the Charlottetown Hospital, and acted as supervisor in the Western Hospital, Alberton, during the first year and a half after it was opened. On her return to the Charlottetown Hospital Sister M. Patricia has been Supervisor on the Women's floor. In 1949 Sister M. Patricia was sent to the Kitchener Waterloo Hospital to study the lay out and operation of the Central Supply. From there she went to

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Outcome of Vision Courage and Faith Says Bishop Boyle

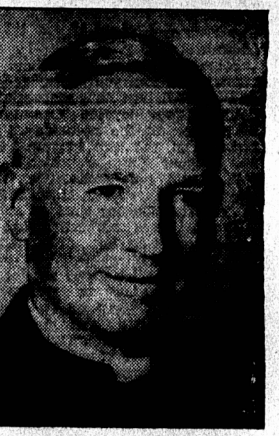
The Right Rev. James Boyle, Bishop of Charlottetown

The opening of the new Pavilion of the Charlottetown Hospital is a new milestone reached in the evolution of hospital service in the Province. The Charlottetown Hospital began to function in embryo in 1879 when the late Bishop MacIntyre invited the Grey Nuns of Quebec to take over a twelve bed hospital in our city. Our own Sisters of St. Martha took over the management of the hospital in 1923. Since that time the Sisters, in spite of many difficulties, have given loyal, distinguished and consecrated service to the cause of the sick. The Sisters and the Board of Management as well as the general public have long recognized the inadequacy of our facilities to meet the many urgent demands for increased bed-capacity and the up-to-date equipment which is necessary in a modern hospital. The Pavilion is therefore a long cherished dream come true. It is the outcome of vision, planning, courage and faith in the future on the part of the Sisters, Board of Management, and Medical Staff. It is no flash of magnificence or luxury but a simple necessity to enable our hospital plant to keep pace with the enormous advancement in medical science especially during the last decade and a half.

Time was when smallpox, diphtheria, typhoid, cholera, and yellow fever were regarded as fatal; today thanks to the advance of medical science, they have been shorn of their terrors and relegated to the list of preventable diseases. Modern surgery, thanks to methods of antiseptic treatment introduced by Lord Lister and to the discovery of anesthesia, brought into the world within a half century more genuine thankfulness for the alleviation of pain and suffering than the human race since its creation had ever cause to show.

Since 1935 research students in the medical field announced the discovery of the Sulfonamides which opened the era of the antibiotic drugs in medicine which are so effective in bringing infectious diseases under control.

Within the last decade came Penicillin, evolving from the pressure of the needs of the British army in the World War, also great advance in the fields of Preventive Medicine, in the obstetrical procedures, and in the



His Excellency Bishop Boyle

field of surgery due to the application of new knowledge of anesthesia so that patients are made safe for surgery and on their feet much sooner than was possible formerly. These conquests of medical science, and others of which no layman is competent to speak, are due, every one of them, to better knowledge of nature's laws and to increasing professional skill. When he sees what has been accomplished in a few short years, every medical student and doctor must be conscious of his own need for continuous study and more specialized courses and professional training on a university plane, for daily, the work of research and experiment is adding to the doctor's equipment. He will fail in his duty to himself and to his patients if he does not keep in touch with the latest developments.

In the medical field as elsewhere leaders are always needed. The success of every professional leader is measured, not so much by his material accomplishments, by what he can get for himself, as by what he can do for others and the confidence he can establish in himself. Every professional man who fails to measure up to the highest professional ideals not only falls short of his own best good but positively harms every other man who would attain the best.

Since the war many factors have conspired to compel more people to enter hospitals than ever before. To mention only a few, doctors, in many cases today refuse to treat their patients at their homes for the obvious reason that the conditions surrounding the patient in the average home, make treatment and recovery difficult if not impossible. The various types of hospital insurance in vogue today make the need for more hospital beds imperative. The enormous development in medical science makes diagnosis and therapeutic treatment impossible outside a modern well-equipped hospital.

There is a demand from many quarters for the expansion of social security to bring health and hospital services to every individual eligible for insurance benefits under the proposed social insurance act and to the dependents of these. It is probable that, sooner or later, Social Insurance Programs under the government will expand to provide medical and hospital services on a wide scale. It is no solution of the problem that confronts great masses of the people, to decant with superior wisdom, on the weaknesses and defects of a National Health Insurance Program, unless we are willing to work for the extension of the present forms of voluntary insurance. Enrollment in Blue Cross and Blue Shield and other plans of hospital and medical care in Canada, is already impressive. It is the opinion of the writer that these voluntary plans are capable of vast expansion. The grants made by the Federal Government matched by the Provinces, in aid of hospital construction are meeting with general approval. In favor of economy and freedom our Governments might be persuaded to make similar grants in aid of indigent patients and those of meagre income, such grants to be used to purchase Blue Cross and Blue Shield care.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

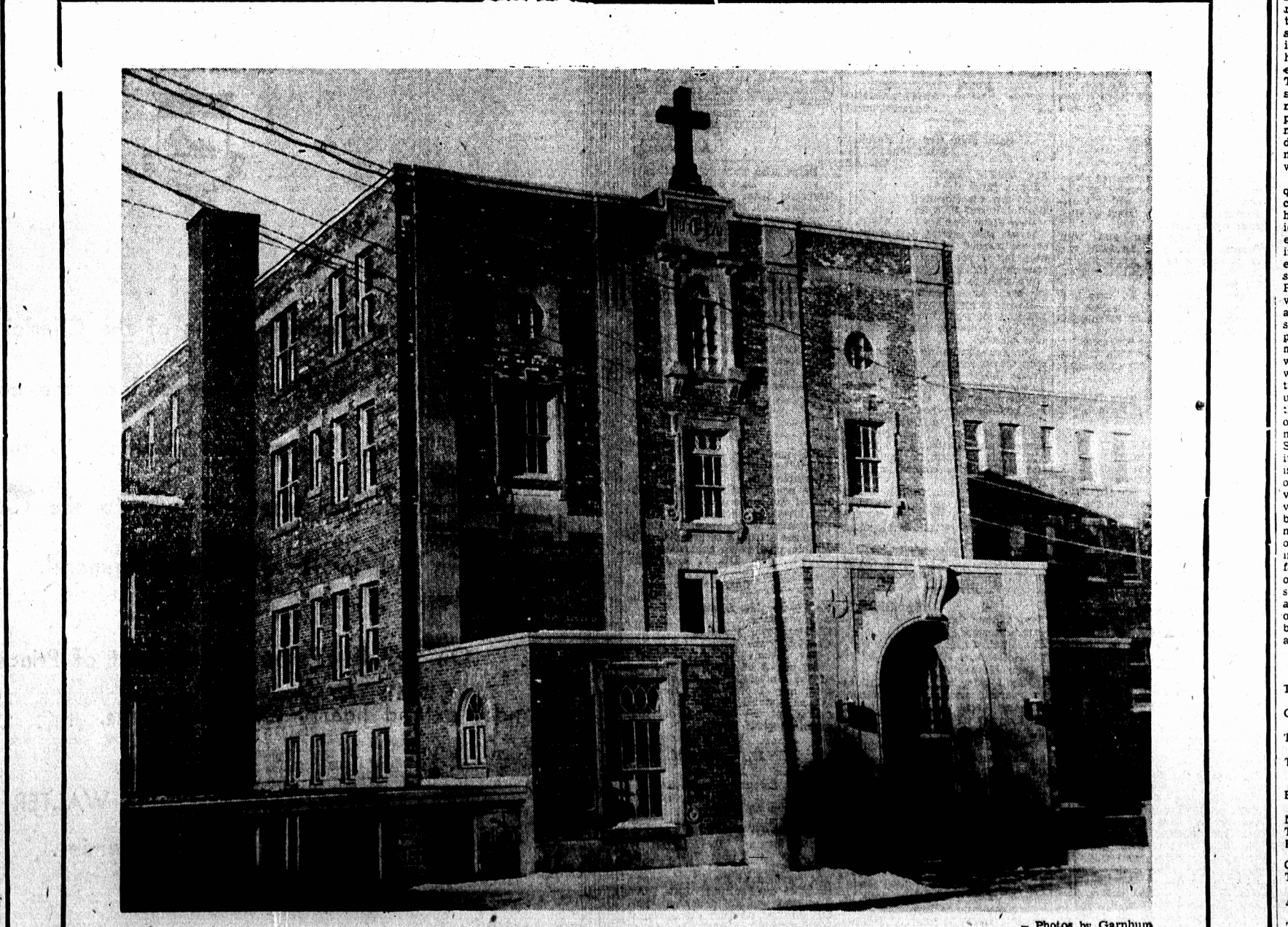
Thou'rt loved alike of sun and sea,
Of shadowy night and glowing noon;
The smiling stars are kind to thee,
Thou'rt robed in beauty by the moon.

Blow winds of east—blow winds of west,
No matter what the wind may be;
Thou'rt lulled all tenderly to rest
Beloved of sun—beloved of sea.

Calm twilight waters mirror back
The mystic trees that guard thy shore,
And specks of gold from nature's sack,
The fire-flies flitter o'er and o'er.

Peace waits beside thy woodland trails,
And joy beside thy forest streams,
Some wizardry of thine unveils
The Road—the Golden Road of Dreams.

Lucy Gertrude Clarkin
in "Red and White".



Frontal View Of New Charlottetown Hospital Pavilion

— Photos by Garnham