



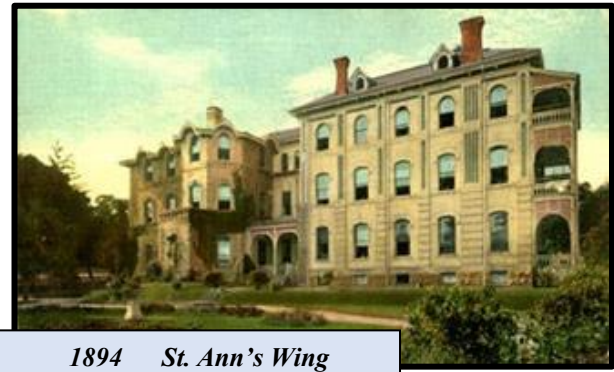
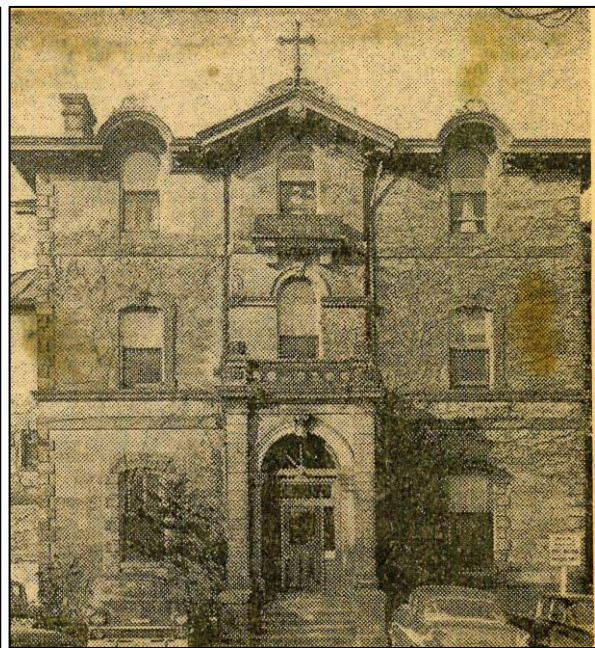
**REUNION DAY 2024**

**CLASS OF 1915 - 1929**

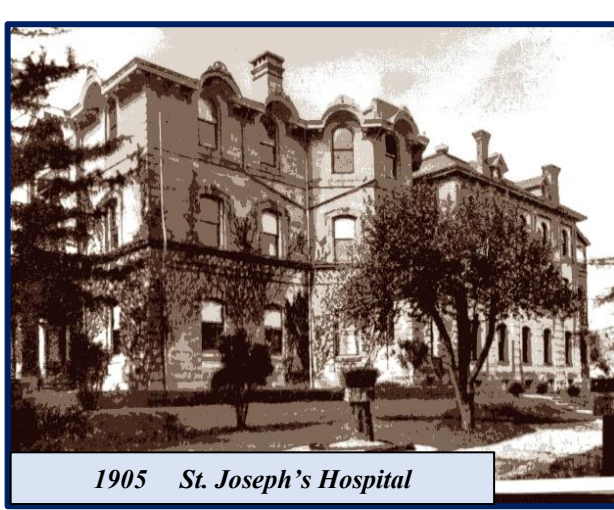
**ANNIVERSARY YEARS CELEBRATION**



June 11, 1890 St. Joseph's Hospital



1894 St. Ann's Wing



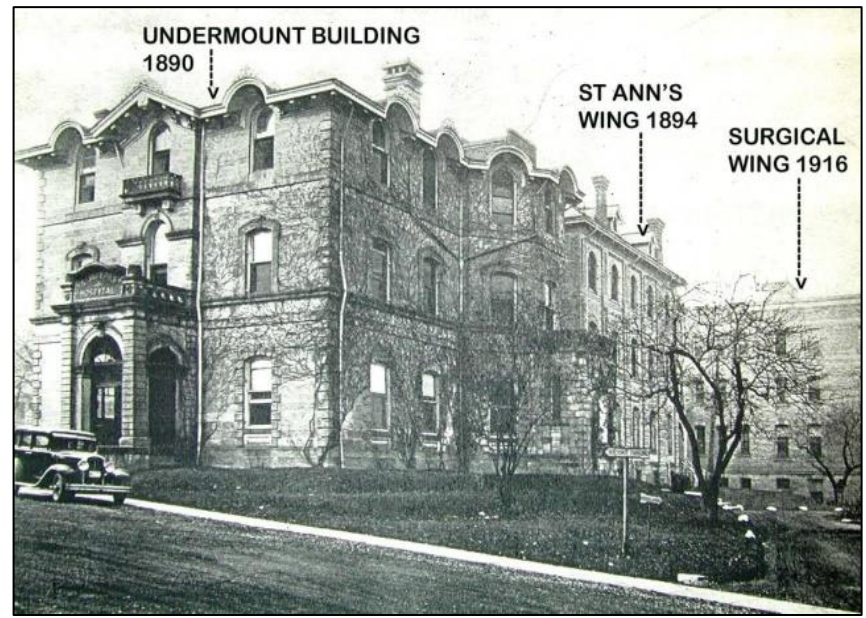
1905 St. Joseph's Hospital



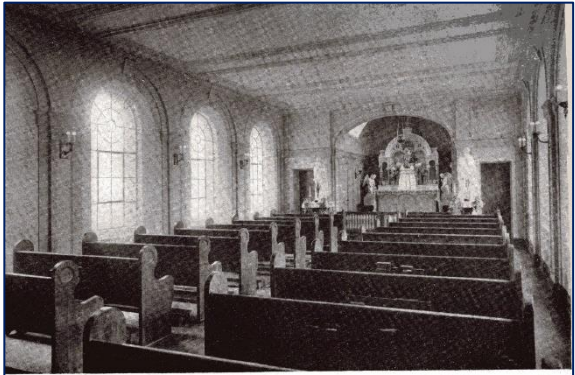
1916 St. Joseph's Hospital

The Sisters of St. Joseph respectfully request the honor of your presence at the Formal Opening of the New Wing of St. Joseph's Hospital, Hamilton, Ontario at eight o'clock p. m., on Thursday, October the twelfth nineteen hundred and sixteen

1916 St. Joseph's Hospital



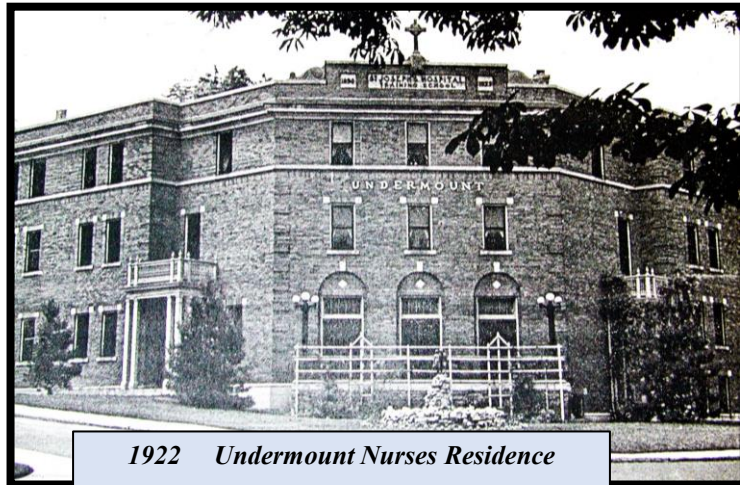
AIRING BALCONY—ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL Airing Balcony 1916



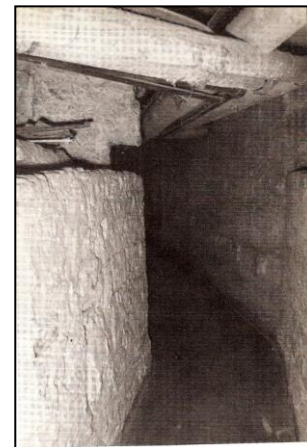
CHAPEL—ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL 1917 1917 St. Joseph's Hospital Chapel



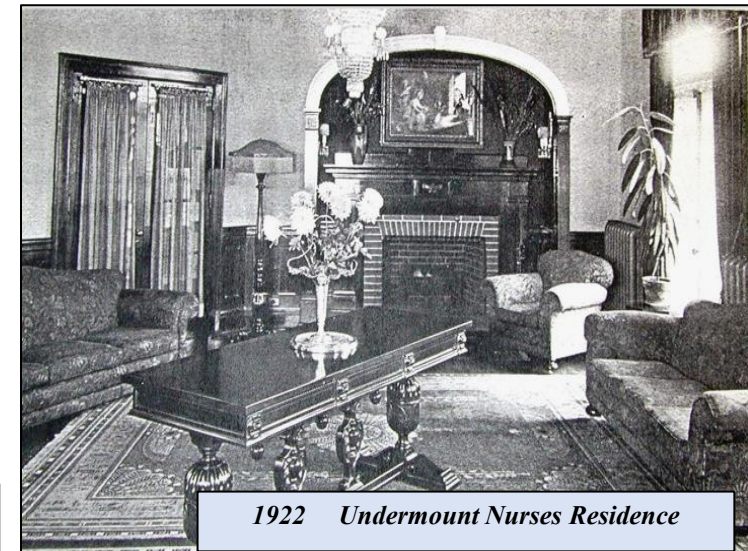
1911 St. Joseph's School of Nursing



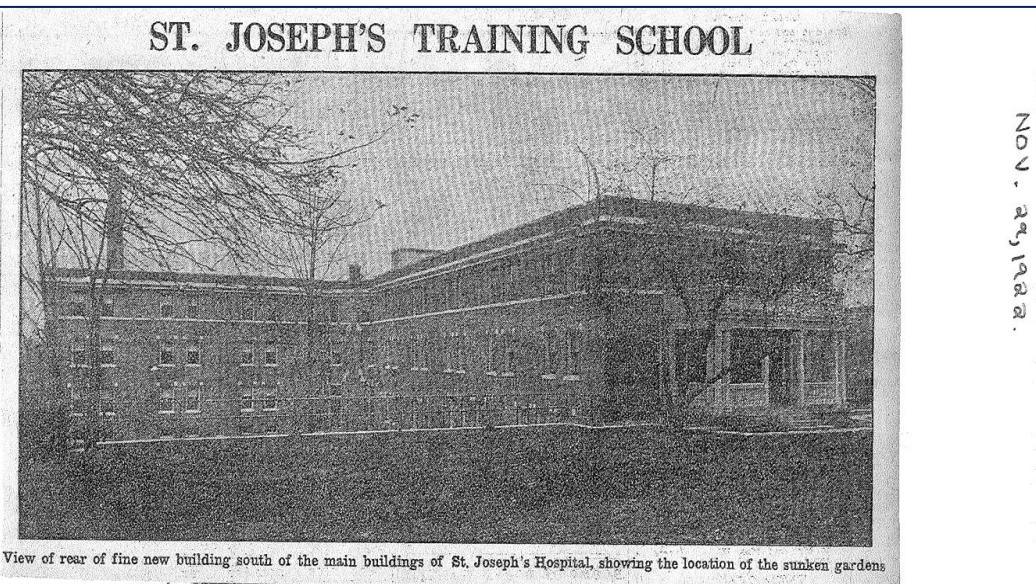
1922 Undermount Nurses Residence



Tunnel from the school to the main hospital

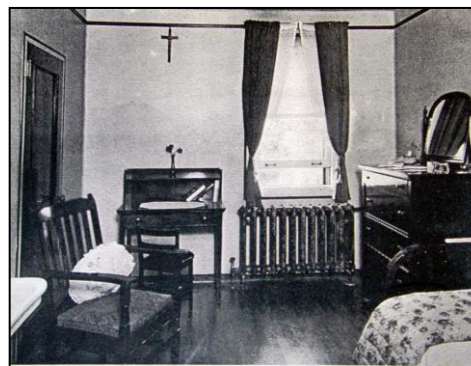


1922 Undermount Nurses Residence

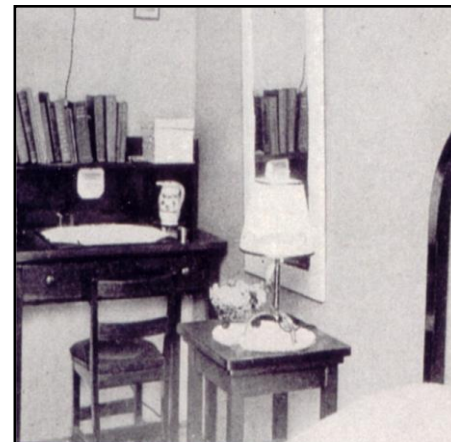


NOV. 29, 1922.

The building was erected at a cost of \$155,000  
The furnishings cost another \$18,000 for a total cost of \$176,000



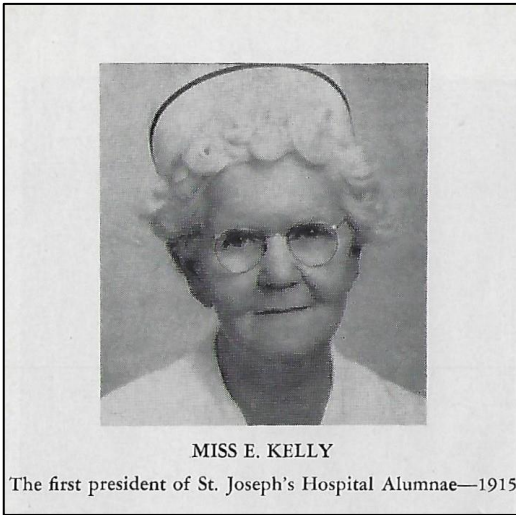
Student Bedrooms & Study Areas



Classrooms



1915  
*Sister St. Basil designed St Joseph's Graduate Pin*



MISS E. KELLY

The first president of St. Joseph's Hospital Alumnae—1915

*Ella Kelly '15*  
*1st President of the Nurses Alumnae*

### GRADUATES 1915

The first two students entered the school of nursing on September 8, 1911  
The remainder of graduates entered at various times until a sufficient number was reached in order to have a graduation.

Graduation took place on January 22, 1915.  
The ground was covered with a great white blanket. The impressive and elaborate ceremony took place at 8 pm in the lecture hall amidst prominent members of the Hamilton clergy, laity and medical professions who together with friends and relatives, enjoyed the musical programme prepared by the 9 young graduates.  
A handsomely engraved medal, given for outstanding work, and huge bouquets of pink roses were presented to the nurses.

Following Graduation exercises the nurses returned to duty with their patients.

Entered 1911    Ada Egan  
                    Sister M. Gerard Moran

Entered 1914    Helen Carroll  
                    Lillian Furrey  
                    Clara Grant  
                    Mabel Grant  
                    Angela Halloran  
                    Ella Kelly  
                    Anne Maloney  
                    Annie McGinnity  
                    Jean Morin

Sister M. Vincent Bergin  
Sister M. Loretto Gainer





*Reunion Day 1947*

Graduates from the 1st class "1915" at the Nurses Graduation Dinner in 1947  
 Left to right  
 Ana Maloney class of 1915    Sister St. Basil graduate 1900 Instructress of Nurses  
 Jean Morin class of 1915    Sister St. Gerard class of 1915  
 Ella Kelly class of 1915

*Ana Maloney'15    Sister St. Basil graduate 1900    Jean Morin'15    Sister St. Gerard'15    Ella Kelly'15*



*Genevieve Boyes'17    Margaret Lenhard'16    Nora Finn'18    Helen Fagan'17*



*Eva Moran '20    Doris Crossley '32    Sister St Edward '32    Elizabeth Quinn '20*



*Back row (left to right)*  
*Jean Laidlaw '37*  
*Frances Ruffing '47*  
*Marguerite Reding '43*  
*Agnes Smith '34*

*Front row (left to right)*  
*Bernadette Clohecy '43*  
*Doris Crossley '32*  
*Frances O'Brien '41*

*Mrs. Webster (Jean Laidlaw), Miss F. Ruffing, Miss M. Reding, Mrs. Muir(A. Smith Miss B. Clohecy, Mrs. Markie(D. Crossley), Miss F. O'Brien*



GRADUATES 1919

Record book identifies 7 graduates

Myrtle Duggan  
Hilda Gollins  
Teresa Gurry  
Mary Kennedy  
Gladys Merritt  
Mary Robb  
Irene Murray



*Irene Murray '19*

1942 - 1943 *Teresa Curry '19 served as the Treasurer on the Alumnae Executive*

1934 *Irene Murray '19 was the 2<sup>nd</sup> President of the St. Joseph School of Nursing Alumnae Association.*



*Graduating Class of 1919  
Picture was restored by donation to the Alumnae for Reunion day 2019*



1979 Thank you card sent to the Alumnae by Irene Murray for the plant received at Christmas.

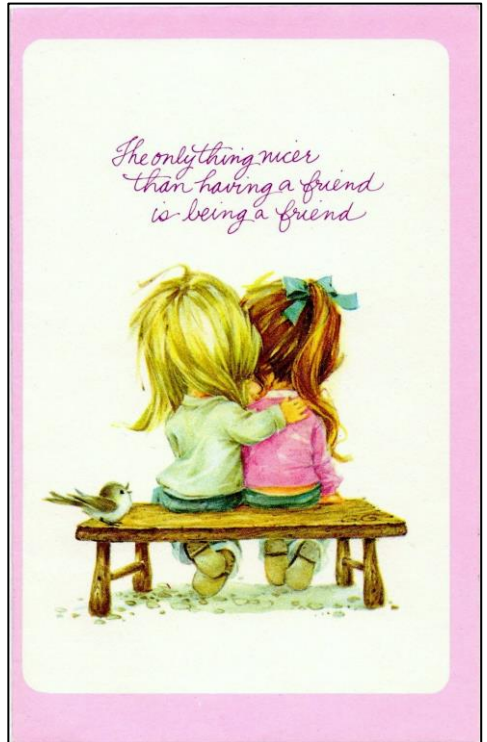
Hamilton Dec 23 - 1979.  
 Dear Mrs. Melnyk,  
 please extend my sincere thanks to the Alumnae Members for the lovely plant, I received again this X-mas.  
 May you all have a Very Happy and Holy X-mas.  
 Sincerely Irene Murray

JULY 6/57 1957  
**Nursing Sister  
 At St. Joseph's  
 Dies In Hospital**  
 Sister M. Vincent Bergin, of Guelph, a member of the sisters of St. Joseph, Hamilton diocese, died Saturday at St. Joseph's Hospital.  
 Born in Guelph she had spent most of her life nursing at St. Joseph's Hospital.  
 Surviving are her brother, the Rev. John Bergin, SJ, of Toronto; three sisters, Mother M. Adelina, of Loretta Academy, of Niagara Falls, Ont., Mrs. Anna O'Brien of Guelph, and Mrs. Agnes McAstocker, of Havre, Mon.  
 Funeral Mass was held today at 10 a.m. in St. Joseph's Hospital Chapel. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Sister M. Vincent Bergin was a graduate in the class of 1915.  
 She spent most of her life nursing at St Joseph's Hospital, Guelph.  
 She entered Eternal Life July 6, 1957.



Irene Murray '19 Reunion Day 1986



Hamilton April 21 - 1979.  
 Dear Nancy,  
 Thank you for your very kind letter.  
 please convey my sincere appreciation to the alumnae association for their best wishes.  
 I find it hard to realize as so much has happened since 1919.  
 I am looking forward to seeing you all at the annual dinner.  
 Sincerely,  
 Irene Murray.

1979 Thank you card sent to the Alumnae by Irene Murray

1924 Graduates

GRADUATES 1924

No graduation photo available for the class of 1924  
Record book identifies 20 graduates

Marion Barry  
Basilla Clancy  
Mae Gaffney  
Annie Gallagher  
Beatrice Haller  
Nellie Hart  
Nora Jardine  
Margaret Kelly  
Sara Langley  
Ivy Loyst  
Georgina Malloy  
Georgina Morrow  
Verna Murphy  
Kathleen O'Brien  
Ann O'Connor  
Norine O'Regan  
Katharine Smith  
Dorothy Wren



Sister M. Xavier Reding  
Sister Mercedes Gallagher

*Sara Langley received a medal for General Proficiency.  
Iva Loyst received a medal for Promptitude and Diligence.  
Annie Gallagher received a medal for surgery.  
May Gaffney received a \$10 gold piece for obstetrics.  
Marion Barry received a gold medal for Dietetics.*

*Pictures of the nuns were not permitted in the class photos.*

*Kathleen O'Brien '24 was the 6<sup>th</sup> president of the Nurses Alumnae Executive*

*1942 – 1944 Iva Loyst'24 was the 7<sup>th</sup> President of the Nurses Alumnae Executive*

*1933 – 1936 Margaret Kelly'24 served as the Treasurer of Nurses Alumnae Executive  
1963 – 1965 Margaret Kelly'24 served on the Advisory Board of the Alumnae Executive*

*Graduation ceremonies took place in Undermount Nurses Residence.*

*Graduation took place on the south lawn of Undermount, with lilacs, roses and peonies as a background.*

*Eight small attendants, clad in white frocks and wearing wreaths of lily of the valley, preceded the eighteen nurses to the platform, looking very serious and sweet in the newly acquired dignity of their uniform.*

*Each nurse carried a large bouquet of roses and an excellent orchestra played a lively march while the procession passed through.*

*A charming musical program had been arranged by the Sisters and the entire assembly sang O Canada. The program opened with the valedictory read by Miss Norene O'Regan and a delightful vocal solo was given by Miss Vera Guay, a student nurse (1925).*

*A charming vocal duet was contributed by Misses Teresa McAgy and Edith Melody, also student nurses (1926).*

*Very Rev. Dean Cassidy congratulated the graduating class, stating it was the largest graduating class in the history of St Joseph's Hospital.*

*It was also the 34<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of St Joseph's Hospital.*

*Mayor Jutten presented the class pin.*

*Dr. J. K. McGregor stated that it had often been felt by the public that nurses were overpaid.*

*He wished to take public exception to this opinion.*

*The doctor thought that when a nurse went into training for three years, living in an atmosphere where she daily risked serious infection, giving up much pleasure at a time in her life, when most girls sought amusement, during which time she was forced to perform many menial tasks, that the current rate paid the nurse could save little more than one or two hundred dollars per year.*

*Surely he said the profession was not overpaid at that rate.*

*There were 20 graduates in the class of 1924*

## June 1924 Eighteen Nurses Receive Diplomas

St. Joseph's Hospital Training School Holds Graduation Exercises For Largest Class in Hospital's History—Sir Bertram Windle Makes Presentations—Day Is Also 34th Anniversary of Hospital's Opening.

With the lovely south lawn of Undermount, gay with lilacs, roses and peonies, as a charming background, the 1924 class of the St. Joseph's hospital school of nursing, was graduated yesterday. Preceded by eight small attendants, clad in white frocks and wearing wreaths of lily of the valley, the eighteen nurses marched to the platform, looking very serious and sweet in the newly acquired dignity of their uniform. Each nurse carried a large bouquet of roses, and an excellent orchestra played a lively march while the procession passed through. Catholic and Protestant clergy, a very large representation of medical men, and members of the women's societies present, composed the audience which greeted the graduating class, as well as a good many proud families. A charming musical program had been arranged by the sisters, and the entire assembly sang O Canada. The program opened with the valedictory read by Miss Norene O'Regan, and a delightful vocal solo was given by Miss Vera Guay, a pupil nurse. A charming vocal duet was contributed by Misses Teresa McAgy and Edith Melody, also pupil nurses. Madame Yelomo very ably acted as accompanist for the vocal numbers.

Very Rev. Dean Cassidy was chairman of the afternoon, and in a brief address congratulated the graduating class, which, he said, was the largest in the history of St. Joseph's hospital. Their graduation day was also the 34th anniversary of the opening of St. Joseph's hospital, he said. The nursing profession was a Christian institution, and many were awaiting the ministrations of these young women. He then introduced Sir Bertram Windle, M.A., M.D., Ph.D., F.R.S., F.S.A., LL.D., of Toronto, who presented the diplomas to the graduates. Their graduation day, he said, was undoubtedly the greatest milestone in their lives, and although nursing was a fine and noble career, it was by no means an easy one. Sir Bertram spoke of the great advance which had been made in medicine and surgery even during his own career, and recalled the days, thirty odd years ago, when the mortality in operations was terrific. Anaesthetics were then unknown, as was aseptic surgery. He felt sure that these graduates would see just as great an advancement during their careers as had taken place during the past sixty years. The medical man or nurse who entered the profession said Sir Bertram, with no higher ideal than that of earning a livelihood would never be a success. The nurse or doctor should feel repaid that he was doing something, in his day and generation, for suffering humanity.

### PROUD OF HOSPITAL

Mayor Jutten, who presented the class pins, stated that Hamilton was proud to own such an institution as St. Joseph's. He did not know of any walk in life which required such sacrifices.

### NURSES UNDERPAID

Dr. J. K. McGregor, of the McGregor-Mowbray clinic, in presenting the medal which he donated for surgery, stated that it had often been felt by the public that nurses were overpaid. He wished to take public exception to this opinion. The doctor thought that when a nurse went into training for three years, living in an atmosphere where she daily risked serious infection, giving up much pleasure at a time in her life when most girls sought amusement, during which time she was forced to perform many menial tasks, that the current rate paid per

day to nurses was all too little. Bricklayers, who were paid a very high wage, claimed it because they could not work all of the time. The same was true of the nurse—and the nurse must have a preliminary education which the bricklayer certainly did not require. The doctor stated that he had known nurses to state that, during 28 years' practice, they could save little more than one or two hundred dollars per year. Surely, he said, the profession was not overpaid at that rate. The doctor demanded of the nurse three things: First, that she have powers of observation and exclude themselves; second, that she be efficient, and this, he said, was more commendable than cleverness in a nurse, for many homes had been wrecked by the publishing of family secrets confided to the nurse through the confidential or professional contact; third, the nurse should have a heart. When a man was sick, he dropped down from the point where he had a certain amount of self-control, and became again the child, petty and irritable, so that the nurse must show sympathy and patience. In these days of commercialism the nurse got very little more, in the way of remuneration, out of her profession than a lopped head and would be the consciousness of a dead well done. This would be the best salve for the lot of hard knocks, weary hours and bad cases.

### PRETTIEST CLASS

Dr. Olmsted also spoke briefly, stating that the 1924 graduating class was the prettiest he had ever seen. In addressing the mayor, he asked why St. Joseph's hospital did not get a fair share of the city revenue, for it had become known to him recently that the relief department did not send a patient to St. Joseph's unless the General was completely filled up. He congratulated the mother superior of the hospital for the foundation they had laid for this splendid school of nursing.

### SOME STATISTICS

During 1923, three thousand patients have been cared for, one hundred of those being city relief patients. A special ward had been opened for the children, and 1923 had also witnessed the opening of Casa Maria, the new maternity ward, where there was accommodation for 25 mothers and babies. The hospital accommodation at present totaled 196 beds and of these 25 were baby cots.

### SPECIAL PRIZES

Special prizes were awarded as follows: General proficiency, gold medal, donated by Rev. Mother Thelma, sister superior of St. Joseph's community, awarded to Miss Sara Langley, Alliston, Ont. Promptitude and diligence gold medal, donated by Very Rev. Dean Cassidy, awarded to Miss Iva Loyt, of Stillville, Ont. Gold medal for surgery, donated by Dr. J. K. McGregor, awarded to Miss Annie Gallagher, Hamilton, Ont. Obstetrics, \$10 gold piece, donated by Dr. Sullivan, awarded to Miss May Gaffney, of Pembroke. Dietetics, gold medal, donated by Dr. Downes, awarded to Miss Marion Barry, of Hamilton. The graduating class was as follows: Misses Mary K. Gaffney, Kathleen O'Brien, Sara T. Lanley, Margaret R. Kelly, Eva Y. Mallory, Annie G. Gallagher, Norene F. O'Regan, Dorothy J. Wren, Beahla A. Clancy, Margaret Anna O'Connor, Beatrice F. Haller, Georgina M. Morrow, Ivy J. Loyt, M. Katharine Smith, Norah M. Jardine, Nellie B. Hart, Vera Murphy, Marian E. Barry.



*Injection Set belonged to Annie Gallagher '24*

**GRADUATION**

*May 16, 1929*



GRADUATION May 16, 1929

Members of the class Mary Atkins, Helene Fagan, Florence Dietrich, Marguerite Fleming, Mildred Boulton, Melinda Cronin, Ivy Hoyle, Mildred Curry, Margaret Melody, Thelma Brydges, Elmira Whiteside, Mary Cullin, Helen Robinson, Veronica Sullivan, Ethel Hazlett, Elizabeth Hubbell, Viola Saunders Isabel Sullivan

*Graduation ceremony was held in the prettily decorated lecture hall Undermount Nurses Residence. There are 16 graduates in the photo of graduation 1929.*

*Record book identifies 19 graduates*

*The program was opened by a few words from Dr Playfair, chairman of the hospital staff. He expressed the opinion that the value of the work done by St Joseph's Hospital was not properly appreciated by a large part of Hamilton. Controller John Peebles presented diplomas and graduation pins. Right Rev. Monseigneur Blair gave an interesting outline of the history of hospitals from the early days when the sick were tended in the Bishop's house.*

*Prize winners included Veronica Sullivan with the award for highest standard in theory. Viola Saunders won the award for general proficiency and the award for medical nursing. Viola Saunders also won the award for Obstetrical Nursing. Florence Dietrich won the award for efficiency in bedside nursing. Helen Robinson won the award for gynecological nursing and examination*

left to right

**GRADUATION May 16, 1929**

Mary Atkins, Helene Fagan, Florence Dietrich, Marguerite Fleming, Mildred Boulton, Melinda Cronin, Ivy Hoyle, Mildred Curry, Miss Gibson (Instructress), Margaret Melody, Thelma Brydges, Elmira Whiteside, Mary Cullin, Helen Robinson, Veronica Sullivan, Ethel Hazlett, Elizabeth Hubbell, Viola Saunders  
Absent from photo: Isabel Sullivan



*Graduates were Mary Atkins, Mildred Boulton, Thelma Brydges, Melinda Cronin, Mary Cullin, Mildred Curry, Florence Dietrich, Helene Fagan, Marguerite Fleming, Ethel Hazlett, Ivy Hoyle, Elizabeth Hubbell, Margaret Melody, Helen Robinson, Viola Saunders, Isabel Sullivan, Veronica Sullivan and Elmira Whiteside.*

*Material in this presentation was gathered from several sources:*

*photos / information donated by members of the class or their relatives  
newspaper articles in the Hamilton Spectator  
Alumnae Minutes & articles from the archives at the Motherhouse  
and photos from reunion day celebrations and Alumnae Newsletters.*

## St. Joseph's Hospital Holds Its Graduation

**Sixteen Young Women Receive Diplomas; Right Rev. Mons. Blair Addresses Class; Hopes They Will Not Go to U.S.; Miss Veronica Sullivan Wins Parry Prize.**

*May 16 - 1929*

"I offer you my congratulations and best wishes for full success and long life in this noble profession you have chosen. May you do a noble work for the sick and the afflicted, which will prove to be a comfort to yourselves." In these words the Right Rev. Monsignor J. J. Blair concluded his address yesterday afternoon before the graduation class of the nurses' training school of St. Joseph's hospital. The exercises, in which sixteen graduates received their diplomas and medals, took place in the prettily decorated lecture hall of the nurses' residence.

The program was opened by a few remarks from the chairman of the hospital staff, Dr. L. L. Playfair, in which he expressed the opinion that the value of the work done by St. Joseph's hospital was not properly appreciated by a large part of Hamilton. Dr. Playfair spoke with regret of the possibility that the ranks of the graduating class would be soon depleted either through marriage or the departure of some of the nurses for the United States, where emoluments were more attractive.

A short musical interlude followed, during which vocal solos were sung by Mrs. Corbett Whittion and Mrs. James C. Brigger and a violin selection played by William Andrew.

### PRESENTED DIPLOMAS

In the absence through illness of Bishop McNally, the presentation of the diplomas and pins was made by Controller John Peebles, who was present in the stead of Mayor Burton.

Mgr. Blair gave a fatherly address to the graduating class, holding up before them the highest ideals of their profession.

"You must be happy today," he said, "at coming to the end of a long, hard period of training. Today you receive the stamp of approval of this institution in these diplomas and medals, which prove to the world that you have fully qualified yourselves in every department of nursing and the care of the sick."

### A NOBLE PROFESSION

"It is a truly noble profession

upon which you have entered. It behooves you to see in each patient your suffering Lord and to treat him as you would Christ, with the same reward in view.

"First you must have patience and sympathy. You must make suffering as light as possible. It is for you to see that the doctors' instructions are fully and carefully carried out.

"The training you have received has been difficult and long. You have looked forward to the completion of the course. Now, perhaps, you are not so glad; you should think only of the pleasant and happy things. Happy things are in store for all who work and make sacrifices.

"You are now starting out into a larger sphere, but the same work will continue. You will meet difficulties and you will have to make sacrifices."

### HISTORY OF HOSPITALS

Mgr. Blair gave a very interesting outline of the history of hospitals from the early days when the sick were tended in the bishop's house, probably by the bishop himself, at that time usually a skilled physician.

"You are starting out on a great career," said the speaker. "If you decide to marry, as Dr. Playfair said was possible, it will not be a calamity. You will be better prepared for wifehood. One thing I would deplore, and that is to see any of you go to the United States. I see no good reason why any Canadian should go there. The only inducement is that of higher salary."

Controller Peebles in a brief address congratulated the graduating class on having so successfully completed the long and arduous course and reminded them of the high principles of service that should guide every member of the nursing profession.

### SPECIAL PRIZES

Six prizes in the special departments of nursing were given out. That for the highest standing in theory, given by Dr. J. R. Parry, was won by Miss Veronica Sullivan. The award for general proficiency, given by Dr. W. F. Downes, was won by Miss Viola Saunders, as were those given for medical nursing and examination given by Dr. Playfair and obstetrical nursing and examination given by Dr. L. A. Richmond.

The prize for efficiency in bedside nursing, given by Dr. F. B. Mowbray, was won by Miss Florence Dietrich. That for gynecological nursing and examination was won by Miss Helen Robinson.

### MEMBERS OF CLASS

The members of the graduating class were as follows: Misses Veronica M. Sullivan, Hamilton; Viola L. Saunders, Jarvis; Ethel E. Hazlett, Jarvis; Hannah E. Hubbell, Jarvis; E. Fleming, Cayuga; Helen R. Robinson, Hamilton; Isabelle M. Sullivan, Galt; Helene M. Fagan, Jarvis; Mildred Bolton, Jordan Station; Margaret M. Cullen, Paris; Elmira Whiteside, Hamilton; Margaret C. Melody, Hamilton; Florence M. Dietrich, Walkerton, and Mildred M. Curry, Hamilton.