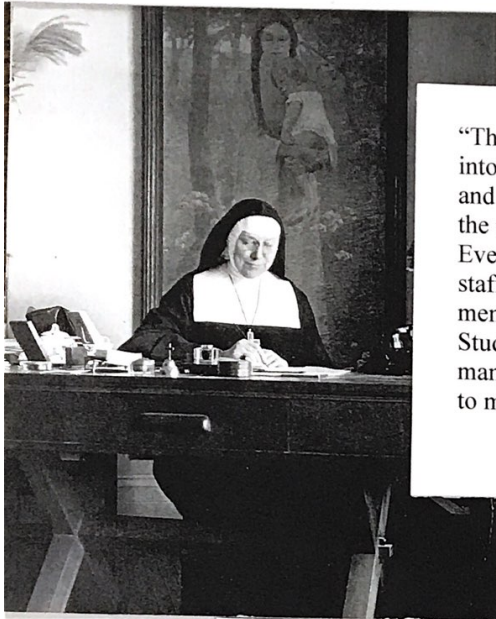


Sister Dora served as Mother Superior of the sisterhood from 1916 to 1945



“The fiscal year, beginning on October first has been one full of activity. We were hardly launched into it before the plaintive cry of sufferers from the Influenza Epidemic reached our ears and hearts, and we threw all of our energies into the work of relieving the distressed. Every available bed from the convent was put up, and finally six new iron cots were delivered on a rush order from Eaton’s. Every inch of space on the verandah and indoors was used for patients... the only mortality on our staff was the Night Supervisor, Miss Mason, who quickly succumbed to the disease... special mention must be made of the invaluable help given us by the Public School Teachers and the Students from St. Hilda’s College, without whom it would have been impossible to have cared for so many patients; also of Mrs. Stuart Strathy and Miss Aylmer Bosanquet for the making of bed linen to meet the emergency...”

Minutes Annual Report, Sisterhood of St. John the Divine, July 12, 1919 Report on Hospital

Reverend Mother Elizabeth Rolfe-Thomas, Sisterhood of St. John the Divine, tells of how her father suffered from the flu. “My father, Walter John Lytton Rolfe returned to England (where he was born in 1894) in 1912 to attend Cambridge University. When war broke out in 1914, he joined the British engineers and became a Lieutenant. He was posted to British East Africa (Kenya) for the entire war. There was very little fighting there and most of those who were killed died of snake bites or lion attacks. It was several months after the end of the war that ships arrived to take the armed forces back to England. My father must have caught the Spanish Flu on board ship on the way home. He had to be taken off the ship at Capetown in South Africa and almost died. He told me that his temperature went up to 105 degrees F. Fortunately for me, he survived and returned to Cambridge to complete his studies.”

A very comfortable private room within the Major Street Hospital that enabled the Sisterhood to allot the majority of the space and care free of charge.

