

**THE SCOTTISH WOMEN'S  
HOSPITAL AT THE FRENCH  
ABBAY OF ROYAUMONT**

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The Scottish women's hospital at the French abbey of Royaumont by Antonio de Navarro

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**ANTONIO DE NAVARRO**

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TO THE  
"DAMES DE ROYAUMONT"

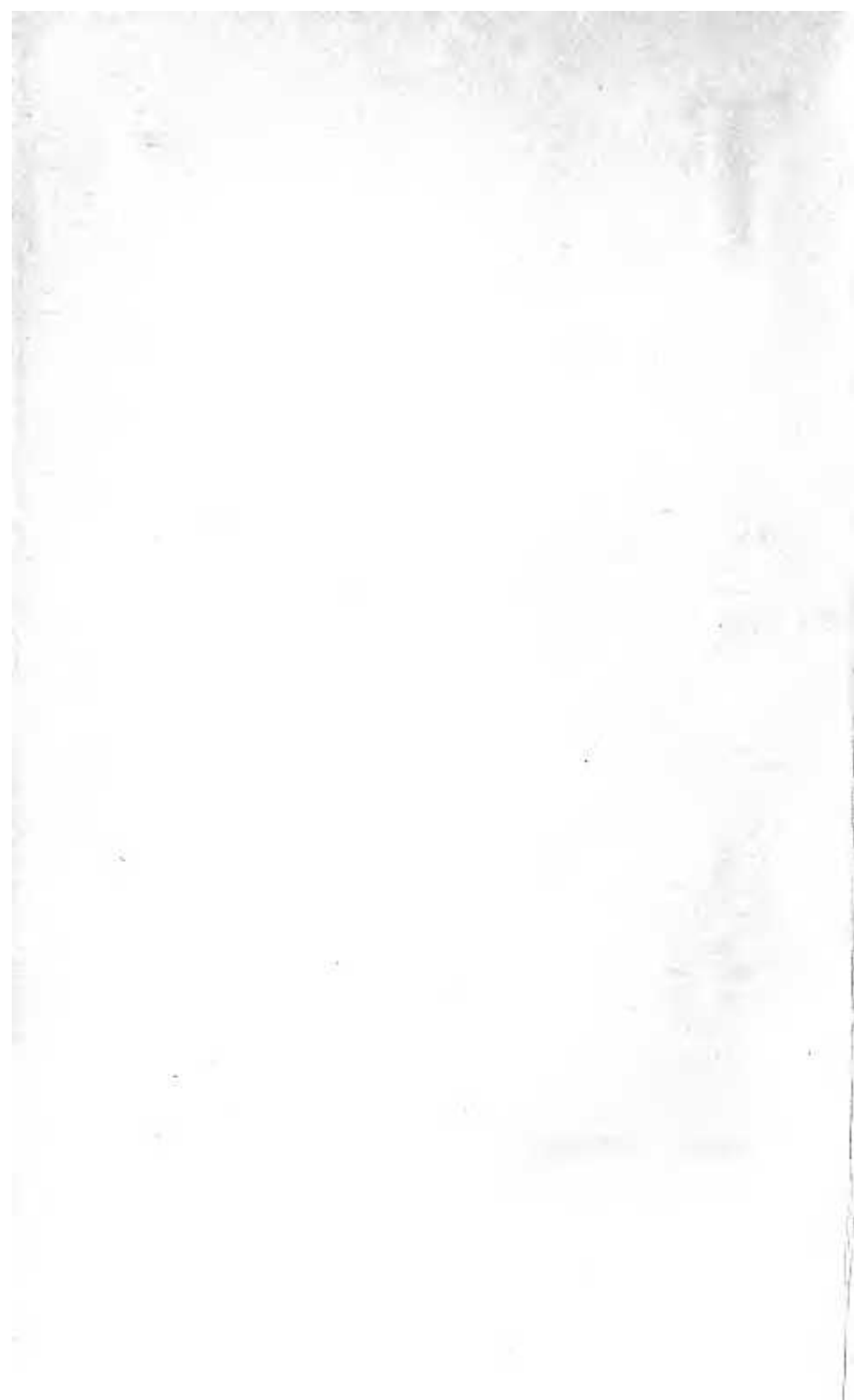
IN ADMIRATION OF THE GENTLE AND GIGANTIC WORK

ACHIEVED BY WOMEN'S HANDS

AT

THE ABBEY OF ST. LOUIS

1914 TO 1917





## FOREWORD

So impressed was the writer on his first visit to the Abbey of St. Louis by its architecture, history, and romantic surroundings, that he determined to create spare moments in his own Red Cross work in France and compile a brochure on the distinguished habitation of the Scottish Women at Royaumont. Particularly did the idea include (for the reader) a reconstruction from ancient plans and documents of the superb Abbey Church demolished by order of the Commune in the year 1791.

Subsequent visits brought him into contact with the Hospital there established, and this created an instant diversion. Familiarity with the perplexities of transformation, an intimacy with the numerous patients, and an ultimate comprehension of the remarkable scientific, administrative, and benevolent achievements of the Staff, dimmed earlier interests, made clearly imperative a history of what had been accomplished by the first hospital in France conducted entirely by women.

The necessary material has been contributed by Dr. Agnes Savill, without whose valuable and varied help a record of the Hospital could not have been undertaken.

This finished, the original impulse of compiling a history of the Abbey returned with all the force of suspended intention, and with the added necessity of framing the Hospital in its own surroundings.

Not to confuse the reader and still keep him conver-

sant with necessary historic, architectural, archæologic, and ecclesiastical details, all the resources of compression have been used to confine indispensable material within a limited space. This has entailed the amassing (and temporary abandonment) of exhaustive data which would have interested the scholastic mind ; but as the primary object of the volume is a presentation of the Hospital achievements of the Scottish Women at Royaumont, those more interested in the Abbey will be willing to await a later comprehensive history of St. Louis' "beloved foundation."

I have purposely avoided long quotations and foot-notes, not to entangle the narrative. The many authorities consulted, French and English, are easily accessible to those who would care to enter a field of extensive research.

A staccato mode of expression has been deemed advisable in order to give pace to the enumeration of a multitude of facts and developments without which an intelligible history of the Abbey and Hospital would be impossible.

The book has been composed and written under harassing interruptions : whenever work among the French wounded permitted ; often in the small hours when the mind was more needful of rest than of the pen-pricks of a literary obligation.

A. DE N.

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