



The View From The Bluff

June 2020

SISTERS OF CHARITY OF OUR LADY OF MERCY

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

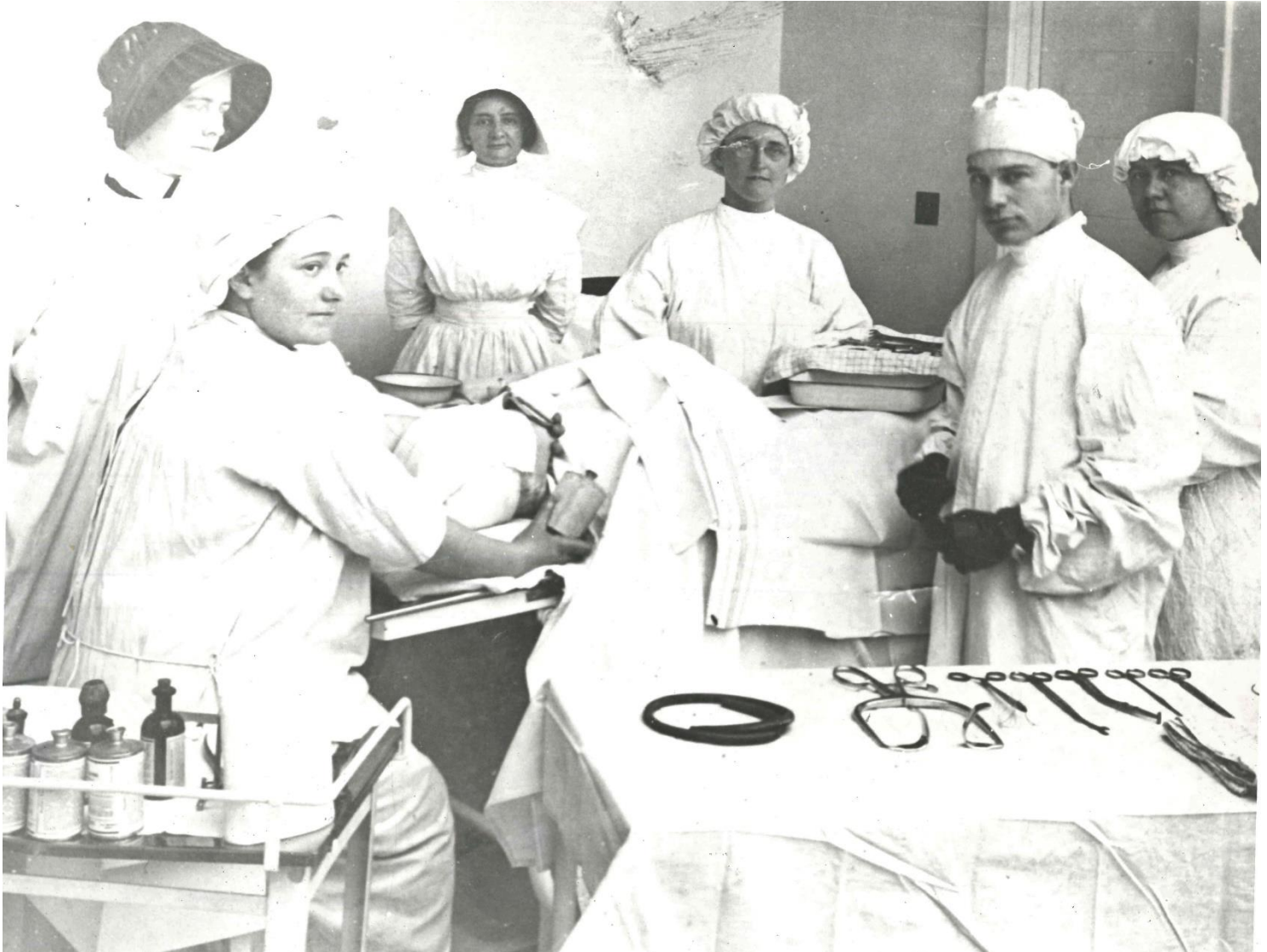


Sister Mary
Teresa Lynch, OLM



Sister Mary Teresa, formerly Eleanor Agnes Lynch, was born in New York City in 1875. The records contain no information about her prior to 1908. In that year she graduated from the Metropolitan School for Nurses in New York City and was granted a State Board Diploma. Prior to coming to Charleston Miss Lynch was employed as an Instructor of Nurses at the Metropolitan Hospital, Blackwell's Island, New York. When and how she came to know the OLMs is not known. She entered the Community on January 2, 1912 and was professed on July 16, 1914. Immediately following her profession Sister M. Teresa was assigned to St. Francis Xavier Hospital where for the next four years she served under the able direction of Miss Mary McKenna. Sister Mary Teresa was placed in charge of the Operating Room at the end of her first year at St.

Francis. She continued to serve in this position until December 8,



SFXH Operating Room 1917. L-R: Eula Andreus, Sr. Bernadine, **Sr. Teresa Lynch**, Sr. Gertrude, Dr. Hamilton, Annie Mason prepare for an operation.



1918 when she was named Superintendent of the Infirmary. Among her many accomplishments as Superintendent was the completion of the 1926 wing of the infirmary. The new building on the corner of Calhoun Street and Ashley Avenue opened on October 18, 1926. In June 1927 Sister Mary Teresa was relieved of her responsibilities as Superintendent and placed in charge of the Operating Department. Her health was failing, and it was hoped that the change would result in an improvement. However, her condition worsened. She went to St. Angela's, Aiken, for a rest but her condition did not improve. She died

on June 11, 1928 and is buried in St. Lawrence Cemetery. The following tribute, written by Miss Lou Alexander, appeared in the "News and Courier."

A Life of Devotion

The passing of Sister Teresa yesterday morning will bring a feeling of deep personal loss to thousands of persons, not only in Charleston, but also in many parts of South Carolina and even beyond the borders of the State. For many years, she was in charge of Saint Francis Xavier Infirmary and her efficient administration of its affairs aided largely in its remarkable growth. It was, however, in the sick room that she endeared herself to the sufferers under her care. A sympathetic, tender, and devoted nurse, she made each patient's cause her own. With zealous care for the wellbeing of those entrusted to her ministrations, she counted no duty too difficult, no burden too heavy, no cost too great, if only she could relieve the pain and encourage the hopes of the sick who were brought to her doors. She fought for her patients to the last, she gave them the best, and today in many hearts is born anew grateful memories of her devotion.

Under her care the infirmary prospered. She lived well past the period that saw its removal from its former shabby quarters to the well-equipped building that is now its home. Only a year or two ago, she was removed from the onerous duties of her position, yet she continued almost to the last to minister in other capacities to her beloved sick. Her illness was short; only those closest to her realized the end was so near. Her record was a noble one – priceless deeds modestly performed by a consecrated woman.



SFXH School of Nursing circa 1923

Back row: Srs. Barbara Baker, Gertrude Tarmey, Victoire Kirwin, Doctors, Fr. John Kelly, Doctor, Srs. **Teresa Lynch**, Perpetua Riley, Felicitas Dolan, Michael Leary, Baptist Eccleston.



AN
INTERESTING
GAME OF
JEOPARDY WAS
PLAYED BY
SOME OF THE
SISTERS DURING
COVID-19

