

with intelligence and conscientiousness. This may seem but little; but it is not so. If a Doctor has, as his assistant, a Nurse accustomed to sick children—who can read the face of the child and interpret the value of the symptoms, who takes her place by the cot, determined to leave nothing undone that can contribute to the progress of her charge, one in fact who puts her heart into her work—then he has a weapon in his hand of more value than the whole pharmacopœia, and nothing better can be done for the little patient.

And in sum and substance, this is all that can be done in the case of any sick child, of whatever age. So placed, the child is in the most favourable circumstances for its recovery. But before the Nurse has attained to that point, much thought and care have been expended on her training, and the same thought and care on the arrangements of the sick room or Ward, and these are the results of experience. Certainly, a sick child will fare better in a Hospital, one among a-number similarly circumstanced to himself, than if he is alone in a sick-room, the centre of undivided attention; for he will amuse himself more readily, and his attention will be diverted from his own ailments, a matter as essential in the well-being of a child, as an adult. The movement and bustle of the Ward will interest him, nor will the noise and chatter irritate him, children not being so sensitive to this, as adults.

It is quite a mistake to ignore the importance of children's diseases. Relatively, they are as serious as an adult's, and, excluding those that are peculiar to adult life, they are of equal interest and value in throwing light upon some of the complexities of physiology. How very ill a child can be, how very much it can bear and yet live, how many phases the same disease will assume either in the same patient, or among divers patients, how very unexpected is the course that it runs; all these are questions that can only be studied in a Children's Hospital, where careful and accurate observations can be made, and the value of them compared.

The surgical treatment of children is one beset with much difficulty. For its success it is necessary to control the natural restlessness of the child; the child is not bodily ill, and yet it has to be kept in a confinement as irksome as though feeble and sick. This is done more easily than the uninitiated would imagine. The child is essentially a creature of habit, and once get him into the way of lying still, and he will adapt himself to it. In diseases of the joints, where absolute rest is an essential to cure, it is best to start at once in the posture to be maintained, nor is it wise to be always scolding the child, as this irritates him and arouses a spirit of contradiction. A better plan

is to have such appliances as will fix the child in the right position, leaving just that amount of freedom that he may have, without doing himself injury; then he will quickly accept the inevitable. To a certain extent, it is right to reason with a child, and explain the course that is to be pursued; but it is in vain to expect that amount of self-control that will keep in check the natural animal spirits, and instinct for movement, incidental to his age; the coercion of appliances will not, as some suppose, irritate the child, but help him. Then, he must be kept well amused by such occupations and interests as can be done in his recumbent position, and, if one in a large Ward, it is marvellous the amount of fun that he can extract out of his surroundings. All the attention necessary, and the functions of Nature, can be carried on in the recumbent position, and a skilful Nurse will know how to keep her patient in order, and his skin properly attended to, whilst so placed. In surgical patients, is readily seen the wonderful amount of repair there is in the human frame, and that if only Nature be placed in favourable circumstances how she will at once set to work to repair a serious injury, or make good some constitutional defect; and it is, indeed, a satisfaction to see some seriously-maimed child leaving the Hospital bright and active, glorying in his recovered powers of locomotion, and robust health—a triumph of surgery and nursing.

"AS OTHERS SEE US."

THE profession of Nursing has now become so important as to call for an organ of its own. This want has been supplied by the *Nursing Record*, which has been in existence for the last few months. In last week's number there were several interesting articles. Miss Alice Dannatt, formerly matron of the Manchester Royal Infirmary, writes an instructive and chatty article on the "Relative Positions of Hospital Sister, Staff, Nurse, and Probationer." Others besides the Nurses themselves may take advantage of Miss Louisa Hogg's suggestions, who *a propos* of the "Recreation of our Nurses," says that ladies who are able every day to drive in the park or from shop to shop might confer a great deal of pleasure if they would occasionally invite poor tired Nurses to take a seat in their carriages. Miss Hogg also deprecates the habit which strangers have of talking to Nurses about Hospital work when other subjects would be a much better recreation for the mind.—*Queen*.

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