

crowd of women, became a thing of pain and pushes; in travelling, if with a rug or a bag, it was a matter of difficulty to enter the cab or railway carriage elegantly. Then there was packing—in these days a matter of toil and considerable art. Did woman attire herself rationally, sixteen dresses could be made to take the place of one. No woman had naturally a small waist, but Fashion demanded a small waist of woman; and, in spite of danger to health, she accordingly contrived it. Dress reform, said Lady Harberton, should not be a half but a whole measure. The Rational Dress Society did not enforce the wearing of the divided skirt (let us be thankful for small mercies); but it did insist that women should use their private judgment in matters connected with dress, and wear what was personally comfortable and conducive to health, rather than remain the slaves of fashion and dressmakers. It was incidentally mentioned that a depot, for the sale of hygienic clothing and patterns of rational costumes approved of by the society, would shortly be opened in Sloane Street.

OUR INSTITUTIONS:

A RECORD OF THEIR OBJECTS AND WORK.

HOME FOR SICK CHILDREN, COLD ASH,
NEWBURY.

THIS Home has now been established for two years, and it seems desirable to publish some account of the work that has been done in it hitherto, and of the extension of its usefulness proposed for the future. Since November, 1886, sixty-one children have been received, suffering from various complaints; such as disease of the hip and spine, of the knee and elbow-joint, cases after operation, and cases of paralysis, &c. Of these sixty-one children, twenty returned home cured, twenty-five left much benefited, three who were incurable died shortly after their return to their friends, and thirteen are still in the Home. There is no doubt that the bracing and dry air of Cold Ash proved extremely suitable to these sick children, and largely contributed to their recovery, while the Home has also afforded the good wholesome nourishment which is essential in convalescence. The responsibility of the Lady who manages the Home has hitherto been undivided. Now that it is proposed to extend the work, she feels that, in order to place it on a permanent footing, it is necessary that the management should be entrusted to the hands of a Committee, to be composed of residents in the neighbourhood.

The house has been enlarged, and a Ward of ten beds has been added, which will be devoted to

the reception of the children of the poor. The other beds will be occupied by private cases, paying according to the means of their parents. In the new Ward children will be received on payment of seven shillings weekly, or by a Subscriber's letter. An annual subscriber of two guineas is entitled to admit a child for six weeks without further payment.

Cases have been received from the Alexandra, Victoria, and Evelina Hospitals, from the Hospital for Sick Children in Great Ormond Street, from St. Thomas's Hospital, the Cheyne Home, the Hammersmith Cottage Hospital, the Sydenham Infirmary, and the Moore Street Home; also from the Charity Organization Society, and from private sources. Satisfaction has frequently been expressed by the Medical Officers of these Institutions at the condition of the children when returned to them.

Thanks are due for presents which have been received, including clothing, old linen, toys, a croquet set, scrap books, magazines, Christmas cards, flowers, fruit, rabbits, surgical appliances, bed trays, &c.; and kind friends have given the children many treats: drives, invitations to tea, pic-nics, a Christmas tree, and many other amusements. Such gifts as the above are most welcome, and presents of game would be much appreciated.

Subscriptions are earnestly requested, in order that the enlarged work of the Home may be carried on efficiently.

The Lady Superintendent takes this opportunity of thanking all her kind supporters, and especially the Rev. W. S. Grindle, Dr. F. Lyon, and R. H. Lyon, Esq., for the constant and ready help they have always afforded her, and for their unflinching kindness to the little patients.

A governess comes daily to teach such of the children as are well enough to learn.

Those who wish to know more of the work, and to judge how far it is worthy of support, are invited to visit the Home, which is open to visitors from three to five p.m. every day except Sunday. Surely such a work is in the spirit of Him who "went about doing good," and gave the assurance that "inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these, ye have done it unto Me." In His name it is commended to the notice of those who are able and willing to assist the suffering little ones of the poor.

THE secret of being entertaining in conversation is so simple that it is astonishing so few people know it. The rule is always to talk about the personal interest of the one you are talking with. He will save you the trouble of talking much, and will leave you finally with a remarkably good opinion of your powers as an entertainer.

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