

dividuals known each by name and not by numbers as in the very large hospitals."

Sister Mackey led me into the Women's Ward, a most charming room, clean and fresh, with beds placed in rows side by side. Each bed had pretty pink and white dimity curtains, a pink counterpane, and over each bed hung a picture presented by the Kyrle Society. Every patient was able to be up and dressed, tea was just going on, and a very happy party they looked, chatting away one to the other. The men's ward on the next floor was exactly similar in every respect; tea was also being made here, and the men appeared quite capable of doing justice to the pleasant meal. From here we entered the children's ward, where it was easy to see Sister was a chief favourite. Here alas! two or three poor little mites were in their cots, but even these were enjoying tea, and bread and butter, with great satisfaction, calling for fresh supplies two or three times.

"They will finish a loaf for their tea, so I don't think they do badly," laughed Miss Mackey.

Two little boys of three years' old seated side by side, were evidently great chums.

"These little men have both had tracheotomy performed. One has been here six months, the other came at Christmas. Show your tube, Freddy, to the lady."

And Freddie, a rosy-cheeked handsome little fellow, nothing loth, put up his chin and pointed to the tube in his throat which seemed to cause him no inconvenience whatever.

Sidney, his chum, followed suit, and both eat away at a large pile of bread and butter, gazing solemnly meanwhile at the strangers. "They are fine romps," said Sister, "but fast friends; we shall miss Freddie when he goes, he has only just come back, he had to go to the fever hospital as he managed to catch scarlet fever some month or two ago; we were very glad to welcome him back. We cannot naturally have any infectious cases."

Presiding over the children's tea was the Head Nurse, Miss Mackey's right hand, a charming woman whose care and love for her baby patients it was very pleasant to see.

"I fear you will think us very untidy here, but I like the children to have their toys whenever they want them. I know in some hospitals it is the rule that the children shall only play at certain hours. All the toys are packed carefully away and the wards are as neat as a new pin. But I prefer to see them untidy so long as the chicks enjoy themselves. We get very few toys here, or flowers.

I suppose we are not so well known. *Truth* sent us a beautiful doll this year, dressed like the Empress Josephine; it is too good for every day, we have been obliged to put it away until we can get a glass case made to exhibit her in; little fingers would soon play havoc with her."

There was a grand rocking horse in the middle of the room upon which a little fellow who had just arrived and was to undergo an operation, was enjoying himself mightily. The room looked far more like a pleasant nursery than a sick ward in a hospital; but for the sight of the Nurse and the white little faces, it would have been difficult to realise where I was.

"They are all in bed and asleep by six p.m.," said Sister Mackey, "they sleep the clock round, and hardly ever make a sound all night. But we have always a Night Nurse on duty here."

Leaving the children we went into the operation room, or theatre. Even here there was nothing to remind one of a hospital. All was bright and in perfect order, every possible requisite for successful operations was at hand; no expense being spared.

"Do you have many bad operations?"

"We have had some very daring ones lately, but we are generally successful, in fact, taking into consideration the necessarily dangerous nature of the operations which have to be performed here, our success is very gratifying.

I noticed that Miss Mackey looked at her watch a little anxiously, and I realised I had stayed an unconscionably long time.

"We have several operations this evening, so soon as the out-patients are finished. All our operations are done by artificial light, so it does not matter when they take place. I am sorry you should see the hospital in such a state of discomfort but we are just putting in the electric light, and workmen make a great deal of dust and dirt. It will, however, be a great boon to us when completed, so I must not complain."

"I suppose you will not give up Nursing just yet, as you seem so fond of it."

"I ask nothing better than to die in harness. I have no longer any home ties, my father and mother are both dead, but here I feel is my home, and I am devoted to my profession."

And so taking my leave of my kind hostess, I bethought myself that I would tell the readers of the NURSING RECORD, that funds are greatly needed to complete the new building at the Golden Square Hospital. Any contributions, however small, will be gratefully received by the Treasurer.

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