

there was not one sound of wailing, but a great deal of fun and merriment. A safe looking see-saw was being worked in hurricane measure by two fine boys of 3, who shouted at their play, and looked personifications of joy and life.

The day before my visit, within a walk from where I stood then, a workman's child, a spirited baby of 4, had "*dared*" to run before a tram. One instant it trotted there a bright imp of mischief, the next—before it was possible for the driver to pull up—it was crushed to death. The incident came to my mind as I watched the safe and happy imps of mischief here, and suggested others only too familiar to those who work in hospitals. I thought of the great army of neglected and injured children suffering and dying of ills that might have been prevented, and was thankful that here and in hundreds of similar "mangers" in Germany and elsewhere humanity has recognised a social duty, and stretched out its hand to save the children, to give them what is their *right* in every Christian country—the joy and peace of childhood.

Here on the balcony and below in the yard, where the children from three to six were playing, kindness was evidently what everyone was *used to*, and a strange visitor a possible playfellow, who was hailed with acclamations. There were shades of distinction in the reception we met; while the balcony babies clasped our knees, and wanted to be "lifted up," the sager occupants of the play-ground shook hands, some of them elaborating their welcome by dropping a curtsey. There was neither shyness nor boldness in their manner, and when one mentally compared this, and their well-fed, cheerful and neat appearance with the aspect of the average factory hand's child when left to itself, one appreciated the difference.

It took some time to shake hands with half a hundred children, especially as some of them enjoyed the game, and returned to shake hands again; in fact our arrival and departure were blended into one continuous round of salutations. We were obliged to curtail this pastime of hand-shaking, as time was flying, upon which one little monkey rushed away from her companions, and followed us into the passage, thereby gaining the triumph of the last "good-bye."

Neither lifts nor staircases, but inclined asphalted passages took us up to the flat above, where 100 school children, boys and girls, were enjoying their afternoon meal in a large hall. These elder children rose with one accord on our entrance, sat down with one accord at a signal from the caretaker, and showed by the perfect order that prevailed under this single guardian (a young woman) that they had been cleverly drilled. Many of these children had frequented the "manger" since their earliest infancy.

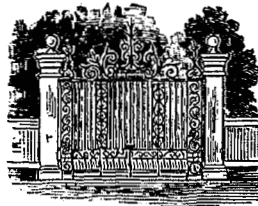
There is a teacher to superintend the school children at their lessons. "But," said Sister, "we do not want to make the 'manger' a school. We like the children to feel *at home* here, to play heartily, yet restrained for their good by such rules as a well-regulated home would enforce."

Among a number of nurseries I visited, that of the Linden velvet factory is unsurpassed in the excellence obtained amidst unfavourable surroundings. The fact that the nurseries are organised by a "company" for the benefit of its workpeople adds greatly to their interest. In my next letter I purpose describing a nursery organised by private persons for the benefit of children of the labouring classes.

(*To be continued.*)

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



THE Annual Meeting of the London Young Women's Christian Association was held last Wednesday in Exeter Hall. The large hall was crowded to overflowing. The chair was taken by Lord Kinnaird (President), who was supported

by Herbert Arbuthnot, Esq., Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Bevan, Sir Fowell Buxton, Bart., Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Denny, T. Cheney Garfit, Esq., Miss A. R. Habershon, the Hon. E. Kinnaird, Colonel McGregor, Captain the Hon. J. R. Moreton, Miss Morley, Colonel Scott, Rev. M. Washington, General Watson and many other friends of the Association. Mr. W. T. Paton, who was received with cheers, said he had recently returned from France, where he met Sir George Williams, who sent his "hearty greetings and Christian love" to the members of the Association. The basis of the Y.W.C.A. was "a living union with Christ our Lord and Saviour, the love of God shed abroad in the heart by the Holy Ghost, and the desire of all to spread the Kingdom of God by all means in their power." These words should be hung up in every girl's bedroom. He then read an abstract of the report, which stated that the year 1894 had opened with a deficit of £1,170 which was increased through the extension of the work to £2,648; this had been entirely discharged. The expenditure for the year had been £8,423 7s 11d. and the income £8,423 10s 8d. leaving in hand the large balance of 2s 9d. Twelve new centres had been opened, making in all 143 in London. The number of members and associates was 14,194. The members were provided with recreation by social evenings, lectures on hygiene, ambulance, &c., dressmaking, cooking, drill, &c. The Bible Classes are the best attended of any. Several members have gone out into the Mission Field. The Park Mission he considered to be their crowning work, and if the £8,000 had been expended on this one branch alone, it would have been well spent, for these poor girls are somebody's daughters. Three hundred and fifty-seven cases had passed through their hands, some sent to Homes, domestic service, and Hospitals, restored to friends, and seventy-four were placed in their own Park Mission Lodge to be specially dealt with. The workrooms and factories, employment agency, barmaids' branch, Nurses' union, to which 390 Hospital Nurses belonged, sick-aid, holiday and the many other departments were mentioned as being most satisfactory in all respects. The Chairman distributed prizes to those who had specially distinguished themselves in the work during the year, and said that he believed that God was helping the work, and would provide the workers and the means they required; he heartily commended it to the generous support of the public. Unfortunately many rich men did not sufficiently know of the work done by the Association, else he was sure they would write out cheques and send them on. He knew God would provide, and he prayed that the current year might be the very best year the Association had ever had. Rev. E. A. Stuart drew five

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