

answers. "She couldn't make it *too* well for such a Hospital." We are shown a beautiful little theatre basket made by Sister Manvers. It is miniature and exquisitely done containing the tiniest of tiny drainage tubes in a small bottle of antiseptic solution, sutures of Lilliputian dimensions, splints surely intended for fairy

illness or accident were relieved within the walls of this Hospital. Think for a moment what that means. It represents the population of a flourishing county town, Exeter—for example. If every man, woman and child in the western city were injured or ill, and in one twelve months obtained relief or cure through the agency of one Hospital, no one in the whole county would fail to hear of it, and it is certain that it would obtain immense popularity and support. But the very immensity of London dwarfs everything which it contains, and the dense population which surrounds St. Mary's Hospital, and which looks to the Institution for its medical and surgical and Nursing care, furnishes, as these figures show, more sick people in one year than the whole population of a great cathedral city. During the year, there are on the average about 250 patients always in the wards, so that when to these the day and night Nurses, the resident doctors and other officials, are added, there must be more than 300 people always living within its walls—the population of a large village.

Some idea of the necessary expenditure can therefore be realised; and during the last ten years this has averaged nearly £22,000 a year, while the ordinary income has only averaged £13,500, leaving a deficit annually of no less than £8,500. Until now legacies have largely helped to make up the deficiency, but all managers of Charitable Institutions fear that one effect of the Death Duties will be to materially diminish the amounts left for benevolent purposes by future testators. However this may be, St. Mary's Hospital does not,



SISTER VICTORIA.

limbs and a bottle of brandy which is a literal thimbleful! Over these presides a large serious-looking doll dressed in the uniform of a St. Mary's Hospital Sister.

As one looks round some of the wards one cannot help wishing that all Hospitals had some kind artistic friends like the ladies who have painted such delightful flowers and foliage upon the walls. Two ladies came daily for two years and have made some of the wards blossom out so beautifully with water-lilies and fleur de lys, roses and poppies that one is tempted to go close and see if the scent is as delightful as the colouring. What a splendid occupation for leisure hands to bring so much beauty into the midst of so much suffering.

Altogether I feel that St. Mary's is just such a Hospital as I should like to enter were I ill, and all that one sees there confirms one's hope that a generous public will so strengthen the hands of the Committee that the good work can be carried on without involving so much "anxious thought for the morrow" as is at present the case. For two years the income of the Hospital from legacies has fallen short by £5,000 of the average sum received annually from this source, of late years. This sum represents one fourth of the annual cost of the work of the Hospital and unless this amount can be made good, the work of the charity must be curtailed by one fourth. It is hoped that the residents especially of Paddington, Marylebone and Kensington (the three parishes upon the sick poor of which the benefits of St. Mary's Hospital have been bestowed in practically equal proportions, for half-a-century), will come forward and contribute generously both at the bazaar and by subscriptions, to meet the deficit.

During the year nearly 40,000 people suffering from



SISTER MANVERS.

and has not received the financial assistance which it so thoroughly deserves. Without largely increased support it is inevitable that its work amongst the sick poor must be curtailed. We earnestly ask the attention of our readers to this matter. If they give to this great Charity they will give wisely, and those who give quickly, give twice.

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