

Health they explored the tenements, and wherever they found illness, offered their help in the natural, friendly way in which the poor help each other. It did not take long for the tenements to become aware that there were neighbours of unusual gifts near by, skilled in the management of sickness, more than ordinarily hospitable, and competent to advise in all sorts of emergencies. No suspicion of being connected with any of the "Societies" did they allow, and gave no alms, though, in pinch of need, they spent money, or loaned it, freely, as the poor do with each other, to tide over a bad time, and always most generous were they with sympathetic interest.

"I came up because they said there were some ladies who would listen," said an old man who climbed the stairs to visit them.

Two years of this life went on, during which the attention of many people was drawn to what they were doing. Other nurses desired to join them, and benevolent and altruistic people wished to co-operate with them.

A house was given them, of the old-fashioned homelike type still found on the East side, situated on a quiet street once the abode of the Quakers, and not yet entirely given over to the tenements. Its substantial, three-story face has an open and serene expression, and in the rear, a pillared balcony overhangs the little city yard. Both without and within it is entirely charming. One would not say that every trace of institutionalism had been banished, because it never dreamed of getting anywhere near. Simplicity, comfort, and beauty characterize this interior, within which goes on a life so full, free, and untrammelled in its co-operative independence, that it is hard to know with what to compare it. Perhaps it is most like the pleasantest type of family life—a family, to be sure, composed only of women, each one absorbed in busy interests, but in no sense a community or institution. A little group of nurses first gathered round the two pioneers, and then a friend from the laity, altruistic and endowed with many talents, came to join them, and took a house on the same block, directly facing it in the rear, so that the two little yards are thrown into one, and with another small plot belonging to a technical school this open space gives a garden and playground of fair dimensions, in which are swings, hammocks, sand-piles and horizontal bars for the children who, in summer, play there by the hundred, and also a vine covered arbor where the mothers of the neighbourhood sit with their babes and drink tea or lemonade.

The two houses are used as one, and within the past year a third house accommodating a family of four, has been given to the Settlement, whose workers began to overflow its bounds. This new

house is "uptown," in the midst of the Bohemian quarter, for the head of the Settlement believes in small scattered groups rather than in large communities of workers, as being better able to reach naturally and intimately those with whom they seek to become acquainted.

Let me try to outline the daily round in Henry Street. Breakfast is at half past seven, and unless guests are staying in the house, this is often the only meal at which the members of the family find themselves alone together. The postman comes; letters are opened and read, work and plans for the day are talked over and arranged. Afterwards the rooms are set in order; new cases that have come in are distributed by the head of the family, and the nurses go off on their rounds. The entire day is spent in caring for the sick, and in following out the different lines of work which develop from this, the primary one. The nursing is of course much like the work of district nurses in general, except for the entire absence of any kind of restrictive regulation. Each nurse manages her patients and arranges her time according to her best judgment, and all points of interest, knotty problems, and difficult situations are talked over and settled in family council. The calls usually come from the people themselves, though charitable agencies, clergymen, and physicians furnish a certain percentage. Often the nurse is sent for before a doctor is called, and then, if one is needed, she decides whether to apply at the Dispensary, or to submit the patient's case to one of the best uptown specialists, or to advise hospital care.

The patients being usually of a poverty which makes life a pitiful struggle even at the best, the nurses' care is freely given, with the exception of one who devotes her whole time to a service among those of more means, who would not ask for free nursing. This nurse's patients always pay for their nursing at the rate of twenty-five or thirty cents an hour. Beside the professional care of the invalid, all the circumstances of the family, so quickly learned in this intimate relation, become the nurse's interest, and, so far as is possible, her concern, and through the acquaintance thus established, she is sometimes able to open the door of a different life to one or another; to bring longed-for but hitherto unattainable opportunities within reach of different ones who had been by circumstances deprived of all for which nature had fitted them. As the Settlement family is quite a permanent one, its members entering for indefinite periods and never wishing to leave, the nurses form real friendships with their people, who call upon them in every emergency, year in and year out. Beside her nursing, each one takes up some special work of her own according to her talent. What this may be will appear after luncheon to which we now return and where one

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