

costly item. The physical power of convalescents in breaking furniture is marvellous.

Not the least part of treating convalescents successfully is to interest and amuse them, their health will not progress favourably, nor their conduct be satisfactory, if they are bored; it is often easier to nurse people than to amuse them, but in convalescent work it becomes as much a duty as dressing the wounds, etc. The old saying, "Satan finds some mischief still," is never more suitably applied than to people who are not expected to work, and have nothing to do; a little thought in obtaining games, organising concerts, and dances, and, above all, entering into their amusements oneself, will soon arouse interest; weariness, aches and pains will be forgotten, and the result will well repay the trouble, no people more easily enter into amusements than convalescents.

To enforce much work from the patients is a mistake, and must interfere with the regular methods of administration, a little work will go a long way, small tasks sufficient to prevent the feeling of absolute laziness, and encouraging them to help one another in the many small ways that they can, is quite enough, the feeling in the Home is far pleasanter where the patients are treated as visitors, and not made to work.

There is no doubt that the influence to which patients are subject in Hospitals and Homes both for their moral and physical good, does, in a few cases, bear fruit afterwards in their lives. They have a chance given them of starting afresh, and some take advantage of it; how many or how few need not matter to us, we are not working for the knowledge of success, but we are working with a consciousness that our work is a small part of the great scheme for rendering the lives of men and women happier, less burdened by disease and misery, aye and even holier, and with the thought of this object let not those whose lot it is to work in Convalescent Homes, say how dull, how slow it all is.

### A Graceful Appreciation.

At the annual meeting of the Melbourne Hospital, Australia, Mr. F. R. Godfrey, the President, moved "that Miss Isla Stewart, Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, be elected an honorary governor of the institution." He explained that Miss Stewart had given invaluable aid in examining the qualifications of applicants for the position of Matron of the Melbourne Hospital, and selected the present occupant of that office.

This is a very gratifying recognition upon the part of the managers of the Melbourne Hospital, and suggests that Miss Burleigh has already won the confidence of the Committee of the institution.

### The Care of Sick Animals.

An interesting account of the relief afforded to sick animals in the New York Zoological Park in the Bronx by surgical intervention is given in a recent issue of the "New York Tribune." It is not surprising to learn that with some of the wild animals considerable preliminary work of a more or less exciting nature is necessary before the surgeon can apply anæsthetics. Two little honey bears from Borneo had to be tangled up in a dip net before they could be approached. A big alligator, suffering from tumours on his feet, made a great deal of trouble for every one concerned. He was finally tied down on a flat board with strong ropes and the operation was performed. A monkey with a broken arm insisted on eating off the plaster cast, and it was necessary to fit a wooden collar around his neck to prevent his reaching the injured member. The charge of the health of the Bronx animals is in the hands of Dr. Frank H. Miller, a veterinarian who graduated from the McGill University at Montreal, and for two years did post-graduate work in the clinic for small animals at the Royal Veterinary Academy, Berlin.

"An innate love for animals of all kinds, probably inherited in a great degree, caused me to take up the study of animal medicine," said Dr. Miller, in discussing animal surgery and some of the recent operations. "On graduation I discovered that there was a general apathy and indifference among veterinarians towards the smaller animals, because they did not represent a market value. They presented greater chances for following out a finer detail of work than did the larger animals, and I decided to take up that branch. In passing from the treatment of small domestic animals to wild beasts no special preparation was necessary. Most of the domestic animals have numerous representatives still in the original wild state. Leopards, panthers, and tigers are simply big cats in a wild state. They are subject to many of the same diseases, and can be treated in the same way as the domestic cat. The same is true of many other species of wild animals.

"I find that the animals I am called upon to treat are strangely human in their actions towards me. Apart from those which are known to be vicious and are properly guarded against we have little trouble. They seem to understand what is being done for them, and seldom, indeed, respond in any other way than the most grateful manner to the inconveniences and sometimes pain of examination. There is a fierce leopard at the New York Zoological Park which has been under treatment for some time for skin trouble. He permits the attendants to wash his wounds and to apply dressing, and never attempts to injure them.

"I am strongly in favour of the use of local

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