

Miss Park who welcomed the visitors in her pretty sitting-room on arrival, and then handed them on to a Sister who conducted them round the wards.

As many of the visitors were ex-nurses, the babies, shown off by proud nurses and prouder mothers, came in for a large amount of admiration, and very healthy and bonnie most of them were. There were two little girls—twins, fine babies both, steadily gaining in weight, then there was the baby whose mother explained that he ought to be lucky that it was the seventh day, and he was the seventh child, born after seven years, and there was the wee premature scrap of humanity very precious to his mother as he was the first born alive, though she had had two before. He weighed but 3 lbs. 4 oz. at birth, and went down to 2 lbs. 11 oz., but is now steadily gaining weight, and, wrapped up in cotton wool, in a cot near the fire, and kept warm with hot-water bottles, is now healthy and vigorous enough, a proof of what medical skill and nursing care can do for these frail mites. His mother tells that her husband was one of triplets, and is now over six feet tall. His remark when introduced to his wee son was: "I expect I was like that myself once."

The hospital is well known as an excellent training school for midwives, many trained nurses going there to obtain the experience which will enable them to add the certificate of the Central Midwives' Board to their nursing qualifications, and to judge from the number who visited the hospital on Monday, and the cordial relations evidently existing between them and the Matron, Sisters, and Secretary (Miss Rose F. Whyte), they have happy memories of the months which they spent there.

Dr. C. W. Hurd, writing in the *Boston Transcript*, has a very appreciative article on the Boston Instructive District Nursing Association, in which he warmly commends the manifold service of the district nurse. He writes:—"The modern instructive district nurse is as different from the old-fashioned nurse as much as any modern scientific instrument differs from the rude one of antiquity. The nurse of olden time was all devotion; the new one is devotion plus science. Her womanly sympathy has not been sacrificed, but has merely been differentiated into other and practical means of helping. Excepting surgery, there is no branch of medicine which she does not practice, under medical supervision. She works in connection

with the board of health, the physicians of the out-patient departments of the hospitals, the dispensaries and even private practitioners. She furnishes the connecting links that would otherwise be wanting to many allied activities. Upon her the hospitals have very largely in many ways to depend.

"If her healing and associative functions are perhaps the more important now, that position may at some near day be assumed by the instructive. The most practical work, with little question, is the educational; and worth a great deal more than the pound of cure offered by the specialist-after-the-fact may be the nurse's ounce of prevention. In the medical profession a notion has prevailed until recently that the doctors or hospitals or nurses were to open up shop and await the arrival of the maimed, the halt and the blind. The new idea appears like a leaf out of business philosophy; if the sick don't come fast enough, go out after them. So they open up new fields and employ the familiar follow-up system of trade. The disposition to do this has been greatly quickened, no doubt, by the recognition of the social bond. The sick person is seen to be not a sick individual merely, but a sick social member; he must be cured and got upon his feet and set to work without delay, for his own sake and the sake of all.

"In doing this sort of work the nurse is a most important factor, a hygienic agent of high value, who in the domain of distress at once alleviates, discovers, and prevents. When she nurses one sick person, she instructs in the same visit from one to a dozen or more well persons, in the family and house, how to protect themselves and others from disease. She educates the people who otherwise cannot or will not learn it in regard to what agencies of all kinds exist for the preservation and recovery of health. She persuades them to help themselves. She spreads, in a word, the emancipating truths of modern hygiene and becomes the commercial agent or drummer of hygiene. . . ."

Beginning this month, *The Nurses' Journal of the Pacific Coast* will be regularly issued as a monthly magazine. We congratulate Miss Geneviève Cooke, the editor, on her wonderful energy. Realise it. The whole journal's plant went under as a quarterly, during the San Francisco earthquake, and now, after all the turmoil, it springs up as a monthly paper. We wish it good success.

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