

OUR INSTITUTIONS:
A RECORD OF THEIR OBJECTS AND WORK.

THE SANTA CLAUS SOCIETY.

BY JANIE F. CHARLES.

THE objects of this Society are to help suffering children in the following ways: 1st, by sending dolls and toys to those in Hospitals at Christmas-time; 2nd, by sending poor children away for change in the summer to Convalescent Homes, and obtaining Hospital letters for them.

Last Christmas, gifts were sent to the little patients in fourteen Hospitals and Infirmaries. In most cases the presents were taken to the Hospitals and distributed by ladies interested in the society, and the accounts they gave of their visits were published in the annual report.

During the summer about thirty children and others have been sent to Convalescent Homes.

Last year a new branch of the society was started to provide gifts for the older patients in St. Bartholomew's Hospital. A large number of books, magazines, illustrated papers, games, such as chess and draughts, were received for the men. Fancy-work, wool, and knitting or crochet needles were sent to the women, many of whom are most grateful to have some materials for work given them to do during the long hours of convalescence. It is much wished that this branch of the society may increase, so that the adult patients in other Hospitals may have gifts this Christmas.

All the dolls, toys, &c., received for Christmas are exhibited, and a bright and pretty show it is. Many friends visit it each year.

The society is very simply managed. There are no paid workers. Members pay an annual entrance fee of 6d.; this money goes towards paying the expenses.

Lady Lucy Hicks-Beach is the patroness, and there is an honorary committee of ladies, as well as two managers. Miss Gatly, formerly editor of "Aunt Judy's Magazine," is the honorary Secretary.

As an encouragement for good needle-work prizes are offered for the best dressed dolls. There is also a special class for children workers, to enlist their sympathies with their less fortunate brothers and sisters.

The managers will be most glad if the readers of the "NURSING RECORD" can help the society. Toys are always needed in the Hospitals; in most of them the "toy cupboard" often gets "very bare." The charm of a new toy to a child in good health is very great. What must it be to a little one who has perhaps been ill for months?

All gifts for Christmas should be sent in during

November, as the exhibition generally takes place early in December. Gifts for the adult patients, as well as the children, will be gladly received at any time of the year; also letters for Hospitals and Convalescent Homes, and money subscriptions for paying for beds at Homes.

Further particulars of the society and the rules can be obtained for two stamps, from Miss J. F. Charles, Hillside, Southwood Lane, Highgate, London, to whom also all letters and parcels should be addressed.

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WOMEN AND THEIR WORK.

THE Czarina had an opportunity, last week, of showing the extraordinary courage for which she is so justly renowned, during the terrible railway accident, in which she so nearly lost her life. Her Majesty remained on the spot for several hours in the midst of torrents of rain, and personally superintended the arrangements for rendering help to the injured.

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THE Duchess of Connaught has made good use of the St. John's Ambulance Lectures which have been given in Bombay, and has successfully passed the examination, and won a certificate of efficiency.

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THE Empress Frederick has sent a fine English photograph of the late Emperor to Professor Krause, in which he is represented sitting at a writing table, on which is a miniature of his wife. With the gift the Empress sent the following touching letter:—"The Emperor Frederick presented this photograph to Professor Krause as a token of his sincere regard, and of his recognition of the faithful services rendered to him during his illness. The Emperor's condition prevented him signing the photograph himself. The trembling hand of his widow has written these words, which will also express her thanks, as well as be a remembrance of sad days, and of sacred sorrow for the best and noblest of men, whose dear image is hereby enclosed by Victoria, once German Empress and Queen of Prussia."

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LADY BUTLER makes an eloquent appeal in the columns of the *Morning Post*, on behalf of her refuges for ill-used and broken-down animals in the South of Europe. She says that her funds for this purpose are now exhausted, but with £300 she would carry on the useful work for another three years. The ill-usage of dumb animals abroad is one of the most repulsive incidents of foreign travel, and naturally arouses the sympathy of "Britishers."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)