

ances to lend the patients. Pecuniary assistance is much needed, as we supply the services of our Nurses to the poor without asking any payment."

\* \* \*

"WHAT a sad thing it is to go through a Children's Hospital" is a common enough phrase, but it is heard most frequently from those who have never done so. Of course there is much that is depressing and heart saddening in the suffering of children, but one must, at the same time, remember that their pain is wonderfully tempered and minimised by a childish delight in their bright surroundings, by unaccustomed kindnesses, and by the toys which to them are marvellous in their novelty.

\* \* \*

There is nothing dingy or dull about the Children's Hospital at Liverpool. The wards are bright and light and most attractive. The Hospital contains some eighty-two beds, which are distributed in separate wards for boys and girls. The presence of so much scarlet in the wards has an almost military effect. The screens are of striped scarlet, the small patients are dressed in scarlet, while the little girls' hair is coquettishly tied up with scarlet braid. Red is a colour which is said to banish melancholy, and this theory may account for the brightness of the wards.

\* \* \*

At the head of each cot a small china vase is fixed, and the pretty little bunches of flowers in all these give a charming effect. But, while admiring the more æsthetic aspect of the wards we do not overlook the speciality in mattresses to which presently the newly appointed Matron, Miss TWINING, calls attention. Throughout the Hospital the mattresses are entirely covered with mackintosh, an innovation which is said to be most successful. The mattresses are sent away periodically to be thoroughly cleaned, and the mackintosh renewed. Of course the initial expense is considerable, but the plan saves much trouble and destruction of mattresses.

\* \* \*

The ward walls are tiled, but some few pictures are allowed—a concession to beauty which one is always glad to see in a Hospital, although our strict sanitarians are apt to regard these decorations entirely from the dust-collecting, rather than from the artistic, point of view. Growing plants and flowers add to the attractiveness of the wards, and small dinner tables surrounded by hungry little convalescents were supplied with good fare.

\* \* \*

A white bridal bouquet on one of the tables suggested a beautiful use to which the profusion of flowers at the modern wedding might be put. From the wards a visit was made to the recreation room—a most important addition to every Hospital, but more especially in one set apart for children.

One of the best tonics for a convalescent child is to transport it from the ward, of which it is weary, and whose memories are mostly of pain, and to set it down in such a room as the play-room of this Liverpool Children's Infirmary. It would seem to most children of the working classes like a page out of a fairy story. Picture books of impossible giants and lovely princesses, rocking-horses and manly whips for the boys, and dolls of every kind for the little girls. "And what a beautiful dolls-house," says one of the visitors. But, alas! on nearer inspection, the dolls-house has been perverted from its original design. Instead of a complete set of "dolly furniture," and miniature pots and pans and tiny beds, the whole house is full of bandages.

\* \* \*

The Matron is justly proud of the Nurses' quarters, and of the regulations for their health and comfort. Each Nurse has a separate bedroom, warmed by hot water pipes—a luxury to which is added, for the Staff Nurses, the privilege of a bedroom fire each night during winter. A Probationer may have this indulgence only once a week. With a shuddering memory of the bitterly cold and comfortless rooms provided for the Nurses of seven or eight years ago, the present writer devoutly wished herself a Probationer of to-day, under the new dispensation of Hospital affairs. The sitting-room is pretty, and made more attractive by the number of recent books on the table; a box from Mudie's, changed as often as required, being a kind and welcome gift from a lady much interested in the Nurses.

\* \* \*

It is pleasant to hear that the Nurses are off duty daily for two-and-a-half hours, with one "long afternoon" (from 1 p.m. to 6.30), or a "long evening" (4 p.m. to 9) each week, so that they have ample opportunity for enjoying their library. On alternate Sundays they do not go on duty till 1.30 p.m., so that, with their three weeks' annual holiday, they do very well, and their two years' training soon slips by. The Matron, Miss TWINING, was herself trained for seven years in the Children's Infirmary, whence she went to the Edinburgh Infirmary. After a course of adult work there, she took up district and maternity work; so that her training has been admirable. The Nurses have the privilege of attending the splendid courses of lectures at the Royal Infirmary, and, in addition, the Matron lectures on ward work. They also receive good training in the out-patient department, which is excellently organised, and where, one is glad to see, the weary waiters are supplied with good hot cocoa at a nominal charge, and that every care is taken to make them comfortable. Kindness and goodwill seem to be the watchwords of this Hospital, which is very much appreciated by the people of Liverpool.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)