

mitted to the coroner at Limehouse, at an inquest held on a baby whom he had treated, the fact that he has never passed any examination did not deter him from attending and prescribing for sick and dying people. That he has never been indicted for manslaughter is, perhaps, only another proof of the inscrutable ways of Providence rather than an evidence of his skill.

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But, happily for himself, Mr. Perdue has discovered a sovereign remedy for all things that is relatively harmless. His favourite specific is tea-leaves. His skill consists in converting tea-leaves into anything, and apparently in the case of the baby for whom he had improperly and unavailingly prescribed—except that it died—he had used nothing worse than an infusion of the fragrant leaf. No doubt this chemist advertised—as so many of them do—his mixture as “a harmless vegetable compound.”

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At a meeting recently held of the Board of Management of the Salford Royal Hospital a notification was received of the bequest of £2,000 by the late Mr. William Berry, of Rochdale Road, Manchester. During the five weeks ending August 13th there were admitted for treatment 126 in-patients, 335 home patients, 1,152 out-patients and 836 accidents. In the same period it was intimated that the district medical officers had made 1,325 visits to patients at their own homes.

Relief to Sick Children.

SPECIAL RELIEF TO SICK CHILDREN IN
CONNECTION WITH ST. JOHN'S GUILD.

BY MARIA S. ROBINSON.

THE *Trained Nurse* for August contains the following most interesting account of how sick children in New York are relieved by the Floating Hospitals which are used to take them seawards and give them the fresh air, and the treatment they stand in such urgent need of during the hot summer months:

In the year 1866 the work began with the Floating Hospital. Many changes and improvements have been made during the twenty-eight years since this unique charity was started.

Next month we hope to begin our twenty-ninth year, and every day the Floating Hospital will take its load of helpless little ones out from the heat and noise of the city into the restful, pure air of sea.

If you please, take a trip with us. You must be at the dock by eight o'clock if you are to see the people come on board. There the huge boat, fitted up with the comforts and conveniences of a hospital, stands like a

great cradle, ready to bear the sick children of the poor out into the pure wholesome atmosphere of the bay, or to convey them with loving care to the Seaside Home at the foot of Staten Island, about three hours distant from the city.

At eight o'clock the women begin to come on board; each has a baby and most of them have from one to six little children clinging to their skirts—all are in various stages of humanity, little more than babies themselves, for in cases where mother cannot leave any one in care of her flock, all are taken together, and God knows they all need it.

Before entering the boat, every child is examined by the attending physician, to see that no contagious disease is carried on board, and the Board of Health inspector confirms the doctor's examination before they are allowed to pass. It is very quickly done, but none are missed.

Once on board the very sickest ones are passed on by the head Nurse to the wards on either side the deck, while those needing simply the good air are directed to the upper deck. Willing hands of the deck men help the tiny feet to mount and mother carries the sick baby.

The upper deck is one huge veranda, open on all sides. The wind blows freely through the floor swarming with women and children, walking or standing, sitting on the benches, as they please.

All day long the doctors and Nurses are busy caring for the babies or teaching the mothers, for our work is educational. The feeding begins about 10 a.m., that those going to the seaside may be sent over comfortably. In the deck below neat tables are spread to accommodate three to four hundred. This is frequently filled four times during the trip. The utmost neatness and order is here insisted upon as an example, and many of the women are helped by it to better things at home. The girls here have to work very hard, but they enter into the spirit of the work and I think enjoy it very much, and certainly they form a very strong factor in the educational work.

Meantime the bathroom has been the scene of much happy excitement. The girls are bathed first. All the older ones, unless the doctor prohibits it, are put under an individual spray bath.

The Nurse goes from one to another with ready word of commendation or help, and, with quick eye to see all that is going on, she has many opportunities to impart lessons in cleanliness, purity and right living. The bath, in many cases, works such a transformation in the children that one would hardly know them were it not for the grotesque costuming into which they step, and here and there you recognise the child by the clothes you remember. Indeed, the change in all at the close of the day's trip is marvellous. Most of the fretful peevishness is gone, the pain and exhaustion has yielded, without a drug, to the fresh air and proper food.

At about noon we rest anchor about a mile from the Seaside Hospital; boats are lowered and the little sick ones are handed down by the men, as tenderly as if each owned the babies, and carried on shore. The mothers, weary, but much happier than they have been for many a day, for the fresh air, food and kindly thoughtfulness has given them hope that baby may yet live.

The hospital is surrounded on two sides by the ocean, and has a background of pure country; here the swish of the surf drowns the cries of the sick

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