

babies on one side, and on the other the singing boughs of the huge trees lulls them to sleep; here tired mothers find rest and refreshment while infant life is saved; here we have doctors and trained Nurses, and everything needed for the sick children; here, without a cent, the mother may keep her ailing child or children as long as they need the care, and best of all, they are taught the laws of health and sent home better able to care for themselves and their little ones.

Three years ago the trustees decided to open a hospital for the children of the poor entirely free, and thus to continue its help throughout the year. Here on 61st Street, Nos. 155 and 157, we have a very comfortable hospital that will accommodate fifty children, and it is generally full, thus proving the need and its efficiency.

The last work started by St. John's Guild is certainly the most beneficent in its results—that of relief to sick children in their homes. The work is carried on by trained Nurses. It began two years ago with one Nurse who went to any part of New York City. Calls came from doctors, dispensaries, day nurseries, schools, private individuals, and from people themselves. So rapidly did the work grow in favour that after eight months it was no longer possible for one Nurse to attend to the calls, and a second Nurse was engaged. Since then the work has twice demanded division of labour, and we now have four Nurses.

Our work is carried on on rather a different plan from that usually followed in district Nursing. The Nurse with us is responsible for everything in her territory. She first answers the call, and, if a doctor is needed, she sends one, either paying him, or, as is usually possible, she calls on some one of many who have volunteered their services to the guild. Now we have our doctor; we see that his orders are carried out perfectly. This it would be much easier to do ourselves, but the very end for which we are working would be frustrated if we did this. Of course, there are constantly emergencies coming up in the care of sick children that the trained hand needs to do, but the general Nursing, as far as it is possible to teach the mother we do, and we see that she does it, going day by day as necessary, and always furnishing necessary medicine, nourishment or clothes—in fact, any and everything the sick child needs.

Often times it is necessary for weeks to give proper food and fuel, and in not a few cases, mother and all the other little ones have to be fed, for while the mother cares for the sick child, the entire income of the home may cease; in our work the Nurse is responsible for all. She has what money she needs, and to her judgment is entrusted the decision as to how much shall be done. St. John's Guild have thought best to throw no restrictions about the Nurse; she is sent out to do all the good she can, and simply reports what she has done.

The work is entirely non-sectarian in character. We care for any sick child, asking no questions. With us Jew or Gentile, Roman Catholic or Protestant, it is all the same. If the child is sick, we will do our best to restore it to health and happiness, either in our Children's Hospital, or through the special ministrations of the visiting Nurse in the home.

Our visiting Nurse really forms the connecting link between all the branches of the Guild's work.



Our Foreign Letter.

A HOSPITAL FOR ALASKAN INDIANS.

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.

SOME few weeks ago I sent you an account of the steps which had been taken to start a Maternity Hospital at Litka, so that the terrible privations and hardships endured by the native women might be alleviated. I am now sending you a few jottings of the reasons which should induce the Government to help in a scheme to give efficient, general hospital treatment to the Alaskan natives. So far, the little which has been done in the matter of caring for the sick has been accomplished by missionaries. But their funds are very limited, and it is felt that something should be set on foot on a large scale to reduce the statistics of disease and suffering among these far-off people. The enormous death-rate among the Alaskan Indians has been for the past ten years a serious one from the medical point of view. The reduction in the numbers consequent on the prevalence of disease, and the absence of any hospital in which their diseases can be treated, is simply enormous. The attention of the United States Government has recently been called to the condition of things, and it is hoped that a large hospital may be the result. It is calculated that a hospital capable of treating and maintaining some 800 patients yearly, might be supported by an expenditure of some £2,000 yearly. There is a special tendency in the Alaskan Indians towards consumption, and this tendency is increased in consequence of improper food and improper and insufficient clothing. Their diet consists almost entirely of fish, fish eggs and blubber, and this dietary results in a disastrous absence of red corpuscles and an excess of white corpuscles. The natives seem to have no vital force, and as soon as disease takes hold of the native he lapses into some of the forms of tuberculosis. The death-rate among the children is even greater than that among the adults, the principal disease being enteritis, while scrofula, erysipelas and

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