

usually finds some visitor or visitors interested and interesting, for no dull or stupid people ever appear at the Settlement. Those who come there have some work or purpose in life and feel a love for it in its various aspects.

In the afternoon, nursing work is finished, it may be in one or two hours, or not until dinner-time, and the specialities are pursued. One nurse, skilled in the Yiddish dialect teaches a class of foreign-born mothers in simple home nursing and hygiene. These are the poorest and most hard-worked of women and who have had the least opportunities. They have come from Russia too late in life to learn English, and can only understand their own curious jargon. They come weekly to their class, and after the lesson is over the samovar is set upon the table and they drink tea. Visitors come in sometimes to sing and play to them, and reminiscences of Russian songs and folk-lore come up. This lasts all through the winter, and in the summer the social part is continued in the garden. Another class is of English-speaking mothers, conducted on the same lines, and after they have had the nursing course, a series of cooking lessons in the big old-fashioned kitchen of the second house, where they sit down to a cozy, clean table with the prettiest of cheap dishes for object lessons, and enjoy the simple, well-cooked food made from the least expensive materials, and designed to show them how for the same amount of money that they themselves might spend, they can prepare dishes more attractive and toothsome than those they usually have.

These mothers are also of the very poor, though with more hope and aspiration than those who speak no English. They dearly love their classes, and call themselves the G.T.C., the Good Times Club. To those who know how sorely stunted in good times their lives are, there is unconscious pathos in this title. These mothers pay five cents a week for their cooking lessons.

Another nurse has for several years conducted a club of girls of fourteen and fifteen, the youngest in the ranks of women wage-earners, and has given them in turn lessons in house-work, simple rules of hygiene and care of the sick, cooking, and physical culture, besides being older sister and adviser to them all. Another course of nursing lessons which is paid for at the rate of five cents a lesson is given in the evenings to more advanced young women and mothers of superior intelligence. The nurse who is head of the house is endowed with all the social genius that could be required in such a life, and it would be difficult to enumerate the various branches of her activity. She is the fortunate possessor of a touchstone which reveals to her the best and finest possibilities of the natures about her, often quite unsuspected by those of less discernment, and this, combined with that best

of all practical talents—the gift for bringing people and opportunities, the work and the workers together—has enabled her to set free a multitude of energies, many of which find their base in the hospitable walls of the Settlement. The “lay member” who has had an unusually wide and varied social experience of the best kind, throws open her house to every demand made upon it, and is constantly busy in organizing some fun or frolic for the young people—a Kinder symphony, theatricals, recitations, or a musical party. A kindergarten occupies one floor in the mornings, the teachers of which are supplied by the New York Kindergarten Association, and their functions are among the prettiest that take place in the house. They have “mothers’ parties” once a month, when the mothers learn the children’s games and the ideas that underlie them. The “alumnae” of the kindergarten also meet once a week—tots who have been promoted to the public school but still love their kindergarten ways. Lecturers find audiences and many clubs, classes, and re-unions come to the Settlement, being conducted by outside people, among which are classes in kitchen-garden work for little girls, cooking and sewing classes for older ones, debating clubs, a Shakespeare class for young women, special pupils with their teachers, and, for a year’s experiment, a little shirt shop where unskilled sewing girls were taught to be skilled and capable of making a complete garment. A reading and study room for boys and young men is also in this house, greatly frequented, and particularly dear to the hearts of the Settlement is a club of boys led by the head worker, who study the lives of American Heroes, and, under the influence which guides them, possess an ethical standard which would shame many a respectable citizen.

The “uptown” house meantime leads a similar life, and this winter a large school building belonging to the Children’s Aid Society has been opened in the evening, and game rooms for older boys and men, under the direction of the Settlement. Amidst the nursing and regular work that goes on here, the social life is one of rare privilege and charm. Not only are interesting people from uptown and elsewhere to be met in the Settlement, but all the currents of East side life run through and across it. The poet of the sweat-shops, whose pathetic verses have lately been translated and edited by a Professor at Harvard, lived near by, and has read his poems there while men of literary fame listened, impressed and moved; young Russian and Yiddish writers come there, and aspiring young musicians full of talent and enthusiasm.

The neighbourhood abounds with young men and women of fine intellectual gifts, who combine the hard work of the wage-earner with the capacity

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