

Children's Orthopædic Ward,
Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia.

SPECIAL EQUIPMENT.

By DE FOREST WILLARD, M.D.,

Clinical Professor, Orthopædic Surgeon, University of Pennsylvania.

A description of a few of the special items of equipment of this ward may be of interest.

BUILDING.—First, the building is erected so as to secure the benefit of the east, south, and west sun. The windows are large (double in winter for protection), and the ward being but thirty feet wide, the sun streams across it all day. Decided benefit is thus secured against "hospitalism" in patients confined to bed.

The ward has tiled sides and open fireplaces.

VENTILATION.—Ventilation and excellent circulation of air are secured by open gratings beneath each bed, connected with a hot-air shaft which by forcible suction constantly carries off the heavy and deleterious gases.

SUN-PORCH AND PLAYROOM.—The sun-porch is an important feature. It is at the southern extremity of the building, and opens directly from the ward by a wide door without a sill. The beds are supplied with three-inch rubber-tired wheels and are easily rolled out upon this porch. It is enclosed with glass and heated in winter, open in summer, and looks out upon green grass, trees, and pleasant surroundings. The bed-ridden patients look upon this retreat as their greatest privilege. It is occupied for three hundred and sixty-five days in the year either by bed patients or as a playroom for convalescents.

TROLLEY SUSPENSION.—Extending the entire length of the ceiling of the main ward is a trolley track from which is suspended an adjustable leather corset travelling on overhead wheels. In this a child with feet just touching the floor can be placed and educated in the use of its leg muscles as he traverses the whole length of the room, without danger or fear of falling. This trolley can be used by a patient either with or without an attendant.

DRESSINGS.—Each case requiring surgical dressing, removal of plaster cast, or anything that is likely to cause pain, is removed upon a wheeled litter to a separate room. A closed door intervenes between this room and the ward, and thus is avoided the disturbing element of listening to sounds of pain or fright, which so often cause serious and distressing results in a ward filled with

children. In this room are provided all surgical appliances for thorough, aseptic, cleanly dressings, and all mechanical and electrical accessories. Patients requiring frequent dressings are kept upon bed frames, or trays, so as to be easily lifted and transported. During the dressing the tray rests upon enamelled iron trestles. A large pan placed underneath permits free irrigation through the break in the canvas cover opposite the wound.

A clean pitcher upon a movable stand, with syphon irrigation attachment, is more cleanly and convenient than the ordinary irrigation jar.

RECOVERY-ROOM.—In the recovery-room are placed all patients after operation, where they remain as long as absolute quiet is essential. No patient is allowed to be etherized in the ward, nor to return to the ward before recovering from an anæsthetic.

THE MUSCULAR DEVELOPMENT-ROOM AND GYMNASIUM.—The muscular development-room is in charge of a competent physical trainer and masseuse, who supervises active and passive muscular movements, Swedish exercises, massage, etc. For lateral curvature cases, in addition to the active and passive movements of Roth and others, special gymnastics are provided for special cases—dumb-bells, clubs, double trapeze, unequal rings, quarter circles, chest weights, Swedish bars, etc. For adults forcible correction is practised by Weigel's and Beeley's powerful machines. Couches are provided for rest.

For paralytics there is a trolley with corset suspension similar to the one described in the ward, which runs the entire length of the room. The younger and paralytic children ride a stationary bicycle—their feet being strapped to the pedals—run by an electric motor. For this class also a swing moved by the arm-power of the patients is a pleasant and helpful device.

No case is treated without a written prescription giving the exact movements to be employed, the length of time treatment is to be continued, etc., and each case is individually supervised either by the surgeon or attendant.

When there are too many patients for hand massage, mechanical massage is employed by machines, an electric motor furnishing the power. Hand and foot movements are used for stiffened joints following fractures or other injury.

Large cylindrical ovens are furnished also for the treatment by superheated dry air in cases of ankylosis of joints, rheumatism, flat-foot, etc.

ISOLATION-ROOM.—To the isolation-room is removed every case of even suspected contagious disease. By early sequestration an outbreak is often checked; if a false alarm has arisen, a day or two settles the question. This room is tiled,

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