

movement, and was one of the two women on the jury of awards for plans for model tenement-houses. Through her efforts to obtain a legacy that had been bequeathed for a fountain somewhere in the city, the Schiff fountain was erected in the neighbourhood of the settlement, and was the strong influence in having an adjacent site selected for a park and public playground, to make place for which no more congested and unsightly rookeries could have been demolished.

The movement for public playgrounds is now well known. They have been valiantly fought for and their need wonderfully told by Mr. Jacob A. Riis, that best friend of, and most lovable fighter for, the children of the poor. His efforts have been assisted by the Nurses' Settlement for years.

To meet the rightful demand of the children for play, we conducted in our back yards one of the first playgrounds in the city. It was an experimental station, in a way, as well as an enlightenment of the general public, and was instrumental in helping to develop public feeling in the matter. After a time the interests of the residents of the settlement were directed to the "Out-Door Recreation League," share being taken in its executive work, and co-operation given to Mr. Charles B. Stover, the apostle of New York of out-door play places for the children of crowded districts.

The workers of the settlement can look with gratification upon the increasing interest in public-school matters affecting their neighbourhood as in part the result of their efforts to bring public attention to the lack of room for the children in the schools, and in other ways to bring the interests of their localities directly to the School Boards. One of the household was for a time a school inspector, but, whether in official relationship or not, the members have been frequently consulted by those in authority on the Board of Education.

I have passed over the steps of growth of the settlement, and to understand how it has attained its present status I should go back to that first beginning in the tenement, when it was apparent that not only were the nurses' services needed for the sick, but that, likewise, their friendly offices were needed as interpreters for bringing to the proper sources the larger and more general matters that affected the life of the people they were in contact with.

Mr. Jacob H. Schiff, who from the very beginning had made us feel his support, encouragement, and confidence, suggested the change from the tenement quarters to a house, arguing that a more permanent basis would be established for these personal services if it were made possible for others to join us. The desire of others to co-operate with us had been for some time apparent, and therefore this most generous and public-spirited citizen's offer was accepted. A house near the tenements, once the

property of the fashionable and well-to-do who had inhabited Henry Street half a century earlier, was purchased by him. Necessary changes were made in it, and almost immediately the house was filled with residents and the nursing was extended. The clubs and social features of the house then began to assume organised form.

The next year another house was given for the use of the settlement by a new member, a lay-woman, who came into residence, fitted up the second house, and contributed the means to carry it on, and who has taken charge of much of the social work among the young people. Not long after that offers of money and suitable workers came, and fresh opportunities to extend presented themselves.

The needs of an up-town district having been urged, a house was selected there and purchased by Mrs. Butler Duncan for the use of the settlement, and workers were placed in it who had served an apprenticeship in the down-town house. A little later also one floor of a house in still another locality was given by the family of one of the residents, and several nurses are accommodated there. Finally, a dream of the nursing staff was realised in the gift, received from a young married woman, of a charming home in the country, where all the year round, and without restrictions or conditions save those imposed by the circumstances of the patients, the convalescents and tired-out people who need rest are entertained and where, in the summer, many delightful outings for the young people are planned.

From the needs of the neighbourhood has sprung the service that we call the "First Aid Room" in three very crowded quarters. In each one a nurse is in attendance at certain hours a day, and cases that require dressings, fresh cuts, old wounds, simple eye cases, eczemas, &c., are treated. These are such nursing cases as might be attended to by the members of the families if the mothers had sufficient leisure or sufficient intelligence. Many of them are sent by the physicians of the large dispensaries, who have not confidence that the parents will apply ointments, dress wounds, or syringe ears daily and in a cleanly way. These are often school-children, and the nurse is thus able to care for a far greater number than would be possible if she went to them.

This work has also a direct bearing on the school attendance of the children, and though many of the cases are not important from a medical point of view, they are of the utmost importance from the educational standpoint, as the children are sent home by the medical school inspectors, and, not being allowed to re-enter while the trouble continues, often miss much precious school time, for it must be remembered that few of these children can attend school after fourteen; at that age they all begin wage-earning. As an illustration, I knew of a lad of twelve years who had never been in

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