

school because of eczema of the scalp. True, the mother had gone to the dispensaries and obtained ointments, but the over-driven, worn-out woman said they did no good. Careful epilation, systematic disinfection, and careful application of the medicament was so successful that when school opened in the fall I had the pleasure of placing the boy there for the first time in his life.

The settlement in co-operation with the New York Kindergarten Association maintains a kindergarten. The children upon graduating from the kindergarten and entering the public schools are invited to come back as members of clubs. They are the youngest club members, and when the first one was called "The Alumnae Association of the Nurses' Settlement Kindergarten" the name seemed longer than some of the members.

Probably the boys' clubs connected with the settlement hold the most intimate place. The first one organised, of which I have the honour of being a member, undertook the study of the lives of American heroes. We took the term "hero" broadly, and men or women who by fearless living had made the world a better place to live in were counted as such. Thus we had the biographies of those who had contributed as statesmen, soldiers, philanthropists, and writers to the realisation of the highest hopes of the country, and living members of the family under discussion often came to contribute personal reminiscences or family history. Since then as this club matured it has taken up the study of civil government and other similar study, and is but a type of what all the clubs are doing. Some of the girls' clubs combine study with the boys and young men, and interesting debates on important topics of the day are held in their meeting-rooms.

In the interests of a considerable number of boys not responsive to the more intellectual stimulus of study, rooms have been set apart for manual work, and with the co-operation of the Children's Aid Society carpentry, wood-carving, and basket work are carried on. The large dancing-school classes, gymnasium work, &c., are possible through the courtesy of this Society—it gives us the privilege of using its large and roomy floors after school hours and in the evenings. Our dancing-school has led us to the same conclusion that experience with young people anywhere would bring: that the desire to dance and to meet their kind socially is a wholesome and healthy one, and that it is a dangerous thing not to recognise and meet the want wholesomely, lest innocent desires be diverted wrongly.

The dancing classes are refined gatherings, properly chaperoned, and with no other restrictions than the ordinary ones of good manners. They are successful rivals to the public dances that are over or back of the saloons, and also provide oppor-

tunities for those young people whose careful parents would not allow them to go elsewhere.

We have a penny provident bank, and habits of thrift are inculcated by making it easy to save the pennies. When the deposit reaches the sum of one dollar, an account may be opened in the savings bank in the locality.

All of such work is not done by the nurses, for besides our valued lay members who share in the social and educational work, a large staff of non-residents take part in the classes and clubs.

The kindergarten teachers are, of course, trained for that purpose. Leaders for clubs and teachers for the various classes are recruited from the outside, and among them are distinguished lecturers who find their students responsive and their audiences sympathetic. Musicales, private theatricals, and the varied undertakings that bring gaiety and zest into the social life are successful with us. We are fond of saying that next to nursing typhoid fever we love to give a ball!

Our nursing work is the *raison d'être* of our existence, from which all our other activities have had their natural and unforced growth, but the papers at this Congress have dwelt upon the detail and method of district nursing, and our methods do not differ sufficiently to warrant my taking up time and space to enlarge upon it. We conceive the underlying thought of the district nurse to be that of neighbourliness, and plan to have each nurse work in a small district in close touch with the settlement house that she belongs to, that recourse may be had to it in emergency as quickly as possible.

We hope that the nurse, with her knowledge of hygiene and sanitation and the care of the body in health and illness, will be an educator, and we lay much stress upon this, that she should not have too large a district or too many patients to look after. We believe she should have time to give the bath, and if necessary to make the second and even the third visit in the day, and not be adviser and instructor only, not forgetting her charity organisation tenets of the dangers of doing for people what they ought to do for themselves, yet holding to the ideals of the nurse in her work.

With this in mind, though we do not undertake night nursing as a rule, yet we would have a night nurse obtained through a registry if in our opinion this was the only thing to be done for the patient. We also send women to scrub and clean in the homes that the nurses go to, if there is no one who should rightfully perform these services, as we consider it a part of good nursing to have the rooms kept clean.

The various needs of the patient are kept vividly in mind. From what we call the settlement point of view we believe that the patients should know the nurse as a social being rather than as an official

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