

Home for Crippled Children.

A pleasing ceremony took place at Pyrford, near Woking, on Saturday, July 25th, the occasion being the dedication and opening of the new St. Nicholas Home for Crippled Children under the "Church of England Waifs and Strays' Society."

The home is built to accommodate 110 children, and comprises fully equipped sick wards, school-room, class-room, dining-rooms, dispensary, kitchens, and comfortable quarters for the nursing and domestic staff. At present the chapel remains unbuilt for lack of funds, though the site is prepared and stands vacant. In the meantime services will be held in one of the boys' wards, which is temporarily furnished with chapel fittings.

The staff of the home consists of the Matron (Miss Holberton), who has been for five years Assistant Matron at the Birmingham Infirmary, Assistant Matron, and Ward Sister, both fully trained and certificated nurses; one Government-certificated teacher, six probationers, eleven in-door and three out-door servants.

The dedication ceremony was performed by the Bishop of London, assisted by the Bishop of Missouri (Presiding Bishop of the United States), the Bishop of Meath, and several of the local clergy. After the dedication a bazaar in the building was opened by the Countess of Pembroke, with her daughter, Lady Beatrix Wilkinson (President of the Children's Union), who are well-tried friends of the crippled children of the old St. Nicholas Home in Byfleet, of which this new building is the outcome.

In addition to numerous gifts and much personal service, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Stoop have nobly led the way to the building of this home with a gift of £1,000 in commemoration of their silver wedding, while Canon Borradaile has given the same amount in memory of the late Mrs. Borradaile. A sum of £8,000 is still required to complete the home.

DEATHS FROM PLAGUE IN INDIA.

In the year ending December 31st last the number of deaths from plague in India was 1,204,194. If the twelve months ending June 30th, 1908, be taken the number was 252,781, showing a very satisfactory decrease. Some account of the measures now adopted in combating plague is given in the return recently presented on the Moral and Material Progress of India for the year 1906-7. They include the destruction of rats, the evacuation of infected quarters, the improvement of insanitary areas, and inoculation. Grants aggregating £200,000 a year have been made to Local Governments in this year's Budget for expenditure on sanitary improvements, with special reference to the prevention of plague.

THE CONTROL OF DISEASE BY OPSONINS.

The opsonic treatment of disease is a fascinating subject. Every variety of bacteria has its corresponding opsonin, and it is believed, by those working at this subject, that it is possible to apply opsonic control to all infective diseases.

Lucette and the Esperantists.

Lucette is a person with ideals, chief among them at the present time being the Universal Brotherhood. That all men, black, white, and yellow, should recognise this Brotherhood the wide world over—no labour could be too arduous, no sacrifice too great that should contribute in some small way to the attainment of this glorious end.

Therefore, when she first heard of Esperanto, she drew a deep breath and her eyes shone. Behold the tool ready fashioned to her hand, that should build the Temple of Brotherhood. She sat down straight-way and wrote for literature; then went out and squandered of her somewhat scanty substance for the same.

Being a quick-witted person, she had soon mastered the language sufficiently to write it with ease; had sent in her name for publication on the list of those desiring to correspond, and was anxiously awaiting her first letter.

And then one morning on the breakfast table she found a large envelope addressed in a dashing hand: "Al tre estimata," etc., the address all topsy turvy, and the words of it spelt in a queer jumble of English and Esperanto. It was liberally decorated with the official blue pencil, and a plentiful sprinkling of post marks suggested a circuitous journey.

Lucette's eyes glistened; the tears almost started. Here in her hand was a little link of the great chain that should bind her to all kingdoms, nations, and tongues; that should unite Greek and Hindoo, Turk and Spaniard, Briton and Japanese; make wars to cease from the earth and bring in the Golden Age. She opened the envelope reverently.

The letter, which hailed from Malta, began by using her Christian name without any prefix—a bit of a shock to Lucette's sense of propriety. However, she considered, one cannot expect foreigners to have the same ideas on these subjects as we have; and at any rate it was friendly. The substance of the letter was a petition that she would honour the writer by corresponding with him on any subject that interested her, and it wound up with a request for her photograph. The signature was a long and unpronounceable name with several letters after, the meaning of which she vainly tried to unravel.

Lucette could not tell why, but she felt a trifle dashed in spirit by this letter. Something in the tone of it did not please her. But she soon recovered her confidence. One must, after all, make some allowance for a diversity of thought and manners, she reflected. She

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)