

Nursing Echoes.



The *Truth* Toy Show at the Royal Albert Hall on Wednesday and Thursday last week was as usual most fascinating, and the number of dolls on show, the ultimate destination of which was the wards of hospitals, workhouse infirmaries, and schools, was much larger than in any previous years, some 4,100 dolls in all being exhibited. Many were beautifully dressed.

One of the most charming in a simple lilac print, and puritan bonnet with mauve ribbons, bore the inscription "Where are you going, my pretty maid?" Wherever she went she could not fail to be welcome. Another, dressed as "Cherry Ripe," and a delightful "Spring" in a diaphanous gown with forget-me-nots in her hair, attracted much attention.

One of the prettiest groups was "All off to the North Pole," arranged by Mrs. Glave. The sleighs drawn by reindeer and dogs, full of happy warmly clad occupants, the Esquimaux, and the snowy scene were all delightful. The artist had settled the North Pole controversy, and the Union Jack floated proudly over it. A gipsy caravan formed another pretty group.

Besides the dolls, there were toys of all kinds most acceptable to small boys, purchased from the Toy Fund, and there was an interesting collection of native toys sent by a British officer in Burma. Then there were 11,000 shining sixpences, fresh from the Mint, for distribution amongst Poor Law children. For eighteen years an anonymous gift of new sixpences was sent by the late Sir Francis Tress Barry, and since his death a special fund has been raised to keep up the supply.

Most interesting were the model hospital wards arranged by Sisters and Nurses of the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, W.C., the Queen's Hospital for Children, Bethnal Green, the Alexandra Hospital, Queen Square, Bloomsbury, and the Infants' Hospital, Vincent Square, S.W.

The Great Ormond Street Hospital showed a very convenient ward sterilising apparatus. Three separate utensils, heated by steam, were arranged on a shelf, one for use as a kettle, another for boiling instruments, and a third for

china and crockery. The appliances were both simple and satisfactory.

The Queen's Hospital showed a trolley for moving an oxygen cylinder about a ward, which is the best we have seen. At this hospital also, the oxygen given is first passed through a glass receiver, with indiarubber stopper, containing hot water, and so is administered warm instead of cold. We were told that the little patients take it much more readily given in this way. The "cot boards" of white enamelled iron were dainty and hygienic.

The cots shown by the Alexandra Hospital were unusual in having no sides, but the reason is not far to seek. In a hospital devoted to "hip children" all the patients are kept in position on their backs by means of a strap passed through special braces over the child's arms. There is, therefore, no object in using cots with sides.

The Infants' Hospital showed a new zinc tray, with hot water compartment for heating the babies' "feeds." The glass bottles containing these all have their own number attached, and a similar number is painted in the depressions of the enamelled tray in which the teats for use with them are kept in solution until needed. The equipment is very complete and should be widely adopted.

In reference to a paragraph quoting the information that pupils from the Salpêtrière in Paris had been allotted to the London Hospital, Mr. Sydney Holland sends us word that "I have been pressed very much indeed to take these French probationers. I have acceded much against my will. I never 'demanded' or asked for them, and have refused up to a point of declaration of war almost."

And now comes the sad sequel. After two weeks' residence at the London Hospital, it has been found necessary for the Director of the Assistance Publique of Paris to recall the two pupils sent there. They may not have been welcome, but it is greatly to be regretted that they should have been made to feel it. A dozen French pupils have been received at St. Bartholomew's Hospital during the past year, and have, we are informed, "received the warmest welcome in that good and cheerful home."

Experience in an English hospital ward for two months cannot be termed training, but it gives an insight into ward routine as practised in this country, and such experience cannot fail

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