

Lord Mayor Treloar's Cripple Home and College, Alton.

No happier destiny could have been found for the "Absent Minded Beggar Hospital" at Alton, Hants—somewhat a white elephant to the War Office when once the rush of sick and wounded cases from South Africa had been dealt with after the war—than to hand over buildings and equipment (by special Act of Parliament) to Sir William Treloar for the benefit of the cripple children, in whom he takes so warm and practical an interest. So it has come to pass that the happy voices of little children now echo through the wards, and nurses in warm blue coats of military pattern are to be met in the spacious grounds, for the breezes on these wind-swept Hampshire uplands are keen and penetrating, and warm garments are a necessity in passing from ward to ward, or to the nurses' home, chapel, night nurses' quarters, and other portions of the hospital, all of which are separate buildings.

If the Home was fortunate in its foundation it is fortunate also in its officers, for the Medical Superintendent, Mr. Gauvain, keen man of science, excellent administrator, and hospitable host, has evidently the interest of the children at heart, and is regarded as a personal friend by each one of them; and efficiency and warm human interest are evident throughout the domestic and nursing departments in charge of the Matron, Miss J. P. Robertson.

It was my good fortune to visit the Home last week, and although a snowstorm swept the grounds at intervals, it mattered little for the power house supplies the warmth which keeps the buildings warm and cheery, and wind and storm only serve to accentuate their cosiness. One steps out of the open verandah into Miss Robertson's room, and straightway the keen atmosphere changes to one of grateful warmth. Adjoining it is the Nurses' Home—all on the one level—with comfortably furnished bedrooms, a dining-room in which the tables were covered with spotless linen, the polished glass shone like crystal, and all the table appointments had the refinement of a well ordered private house.

The kitchen which adjoins is supplied with two ranges, one of which is in use, and the other left ready for lighting next morning. White tiled larders and pantries, well stocked crockery and linen cupboards testify to the good order of the domestic department.

At some little distance is the Night Nurses' House, where the Night Sister and nurses sleep secure from disturbance by the sounds of

daily life, and further, to the right the sunny Chapel, attended by the staff, the College boys, and such children as are well enough to be present. The Bishop of London is one of the Trustees of the Home, and the Chapel contains some pictures which are his gift.

On the highest ridge of all, as befitting his position, is the delightful bungalow of the Medical Superintendent, where Mr. Gauvain fulfils the apostolic injunction to "entertain strangers" in charming and friendliest fashion. Adjoining are rooms for the accommodation of the Trustees when they visit the Home.

A tour of the wards "personally conducted" by the Medical Superintendent and Matron, when Mr. Gauvain explained many points in relation to the cases, was of great interest.

First in order was the "Observation Ward," consisting of a series of glass cubicles. All new cases are admitted to this ward for a fortnight, and it has been an "untold benefit," no epidemic having yet occurred in the Home. Cases such as mumps and whooping cough, which develop in this ward, are nursed there, but scarlet fever, measles, etc., are sent to the isolation block. From the nursing point of view, there is the further advantage that the children are thoroughly clean when admitted to the general wards.

In the general wards Mr. Gauvain explained the principles on which he applies extensions and plaster splints and jackets. Thus in applying an extension to a leg, this should not be placed in an absolutely straight position, but slightly abducted if the correct position is to be attained eventually. Another ingenious method employed, when putting up a leg in plaster, and extension is desired, is to carry the bandage incorporated above the condyles of the femur, the "pull" is therefore on this bone, and there is no prolonged strain on the knee joint, as is inevitable when the extension is applied only to the lower leg.

The plaster jackets are models of what such appliances should be. To describe their scientific precision demands the pen of a medical practitioner, but a trained nurse is able to appreciate the skill with which they are applied, and their evenness and smoothness, attained by constant practice. None of the plaster work is done in the wards. All the children are taken to the plaster room for this purpose, where to the uninitiated the "gallows" on which the children are placed while the jackets are being applied, appear to be an instrument of torture. Here also the celluloid jackets and splints are made which the children wear when well enough to be taken out of plaster. It should be noted that all plaster jackets are made with

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