

Careful nursing is, of course, of the utmost importance, and at Alton, under the direction of the expert Matron, Miss Robertson, the special training required to meet the needs of this particular type of patient is very thorough; the whole staff recognise that a child made happy is helped to become healthy, and how greatly it helps treatment to have the patients happy and contented.

HELIO THERAPY.

Prominent amongst what is termed adjuvant treatment ranks carefully-applied exposure to the Sun and X-ray treatment. Heliotherapy, or Sun-treatment has proved of very great service. Its application requires great care and judgment. Patients must be only gradually and partially exposed to the sun's rays. Pigmentation is aimed at; when once fully established, prolonged exposure to the healing rays may be safely tolerated, and is often associated with the greatest benefit. Often, discharging wounds are healed where all other methods fail. Joints otherwise immobile recover a useful range of movement after a course of this treatment. When no effective sunshine is available, artificial heliotherapy is applied by exposure to an apparatus for the production of ultra-violet rays, and from the illustrations in the Report the little patients in their "trays," or dressed only in drawers, boots, and shady hats, many of them supported on splints, walking or sitting on the flowery grass, or on their blankets taking their hand-work lessons, look delightfully bright and happy. Judge for yourself from this figure of a Sun Worshipper.

ASPIRATED ABSCESSSES.

The most common complication associated with bone or joint tuberculosis is abscess formation—to eradicate a pure tuberculous abscess by incision has been abandoned at Alton—they are aspirated with suitable precautions. Not infrequently the pus they contain is semi-fluid or caseous. This

pus is dissolved *in situ* by "modifying fluids" and can thus be evacuated by an aspirating syringe. During 1914 nearly 600 abscesses were thus aspirated without anaesthetics, avoiding sinus formation with resulting sepsis.

SPLINT MANUFACTURE.

Probably more plaster is used for splint manufacture than at any other hospital, and to the apparatus in the plaster room has been added an

"Abbot's frame" for the forcible correction of lateral deviations of the spine, and the nursing staff are past masters in making casts for splints. Practically all the patients require splints, and it is a particular gratification that not one single splint has been bought for use in the hospital. The services of a highly skilled mechanic in addition to a special carpenter, are employed in the department for the manufacture of the orthopaedic appliances.

A feature of particular value to the patients over five years old is that such education as their condition permits is provided for them. The School is now certified by the Board of Education. Reading, writing, arithmetic and Nature study are taught in the morning, and handwork, singing and recitation in the afternoon.

It is necessary, to be thoroughly efficient, and to be economically successful, that a special hospital for tuberculous disease of the bones and joints, should be large, to attract the services of men prepared to devote their lives to the work, and to attract, train and retain an efficient nursing staff. The uninterrupted growth of this institution of

national importance is proof of its excellence, and of the wisdom of the public in financing it. There is almost unlimited room for expansion at Alton—and we sincerely hope such expansion will continue. Few investments can yield so handsome a return. The appended statistics in the report prove the wonderful



A SUN WORSHIPPER.

This little girl, admitted suffering from tuberculous disease of the spine and elbow, now convalescent, is shown receiving sun treatment.

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