

ground. Above are the "Referee" ward, large and delightful, with a big balcony on to which cots can easily be wheeled, overlooking the Downs, two more general wards, one for boys and one for girls, and an isolation ward, which can be completely cut off from the Home.

An inspection by the Matron—the reason of her visit—was rapid but thorough. Is there any place besides a hospital, except a man-of-war, where polishing is carried out to such perfection? The radiators shone like silver and the brasses like gold. But not the outside of the cup and platter alone received attention. In the spotless kitchen the oven doors were set open at a word, needless to say, with satisfactory result, for where a high standard is demanded by a

hand of cultivation, a priceless part of the Home environment, where, in their season, grow primroses and wild hyacinths, heather, bracken, and blackberries; where birds mate and nest, and wild things of the woods have their habitation. London children may go down to homes by the sea and come back little the wiser of Nature and her lore. But at the "Little Folks" Home at Bexhill, Nature is at the doors, and Nature Study is not the least valuable part of the experience of the little London children who have never before seen a blackberry ripen, nor the delicate fronds of the bracken uncurl in spring or fade to golden brown in autumn.

Back at the Home, where, seated at low tables out of doors near the shelters, children, with appetites sharpened by the sea and moorland air



JENNIE AND SNOWBALL.

CHILDREN FROM THE QUEEN'S HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN, HACKNEY ROAD, AT THE "LITTLE FOLKS" HOME, BEXHILL-ON SEA.

superior officer it is the pride of subordinates to live up to it.

In the busy laundry, in the capable charge of Mrs. Freeman, the wearing of one roller of the mangle, impairing its perfect smoothness, was noted, the need for a new pair of clogs for a worker, and other details—trivial but important.

Outside, the stable of Jennie and Snowball (mother and child) the two handsome white donkeys who take the children down to the beach, was visited. Also the flourishing potato patch, dug and planted by the nursing staff—which includes, besides the Sister-in-Charge, a staff nurse and three probationers on day duty, and a night nurse—and the orchard of young fruit trees; and then the bit of Down and the copse untouched by the

were having tea, and great stacks of bread and butter disappeared with lightning rapidity, we paused for a word with a rosy-cheeked child in a cot. Not long since her sternum was removed, the only known instance of this operation. The diseased bone is being replaced by fibrous tissue.

I must on no account omit to mention the dear dogs, Jock and Rag-bags and Sandy, and Mollie and her two kittens, for home without animals is only half a home.

A drive of 2½ miles into Bexhill, and soon we were speeding on our way to town, with happy memories of the little East-End folks, whom the wisdom of the Committee of the Queen's Hospital and the generosity of its supporters send to grow well and strong and happy there. M. B.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)