

the base of the skull. A back board, slightly inclined from the vertical, supports the back, but there is a space of one inch between the buttocks and the mattress. Contrary to expectation the children who were receiving this treatment looked quite happy in spite of their unusual position. The type of spinal support worn when the patient is ambulatory was also shown. These supports are very beautifully made and fitted. As the party visited the hospital in the afternoon they saw the children occupied at their handwork. There was a teacher in each ward and in one we were shown the work finished by the pupils, much of which was of a very high standard of excellence. The designs for the work of all kinds are usually worked out by the patients themselves. A garden party is held in the Summer when the articles are sold for the hospital.

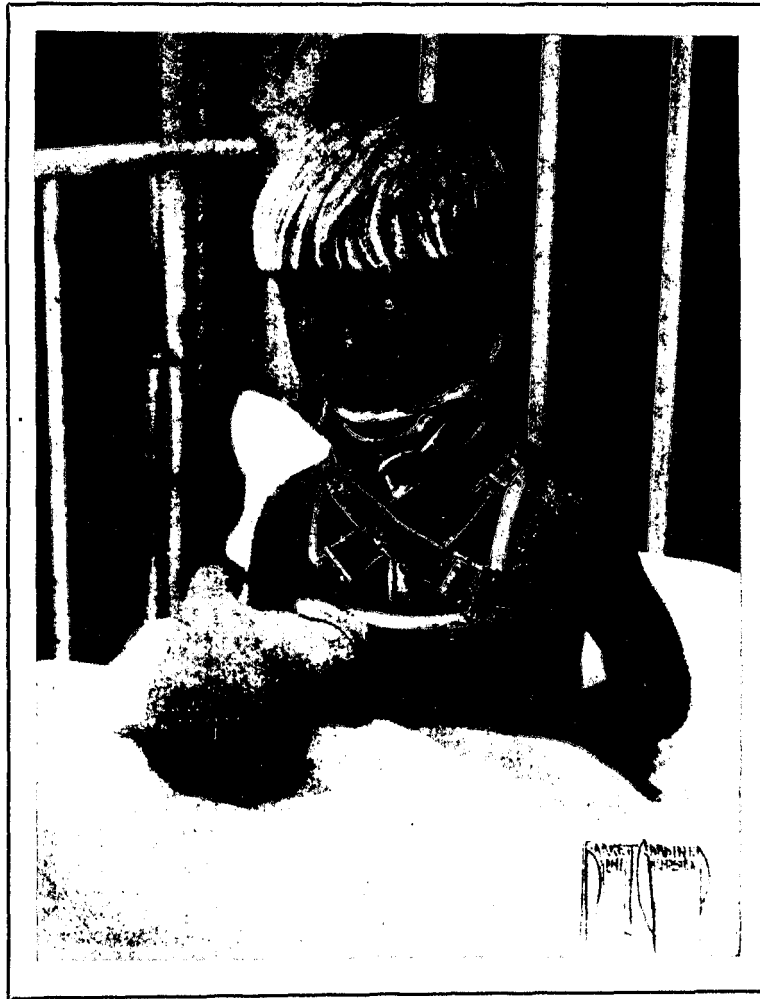
In the Theatre were many interesting appliances for the making of plaster dressings. Among these was an apparatus to facilitate the application of plaster jackets. This consists of a wooden frame having a stout bar across the top from which the patient is suspended at the required height. Foot-pieces of iron are fitted to the patient's feet and these are screwed to the floor-board of the wooden frame. The advantage of this method is that the patient is held rigid and does not lurch about while the bandages are applied. The sterilization in the theatre is done by gas, this having been found to be the least expensive method. The importance of sterilizing the wool used for application beneath the plasters was emphasised by Mr. Seddon, as this type of wool seems to be particularly liable to harbour tetanus spores.

From the theatre we passed on to the X-ray room, which is beautifully appointed and has a generous floor space. A fine new portable X-ray apparatus has recently been acquired. A mercury vapour lamp fitted with a "Wood's" Glass is included in the equipment of the X-ray room. Every patient is examined for signs of ringworm before admission and if there is any suspicion of this condition he is sent back until certified cured. Ringworm admitted to a ward where there are patients in plaster may cause endless trouble. We were also shown the developing room separated from the theatre by a red glass window.

The main kitchen for the hospital wards is run with gas. The cooks are all trained. There are separate kitchens for the staff, convalescent home and the training college. The majority of the patients are on normal diet and owing to their being so much in the open air the amount of food which they consume is surprising. Fruit is always included in the diet. All the diet sheets are drawn up by the Matron herself. The visitors were charmed with the pretty, individual tea-trays which were seen in one of the wards.

The Training College is still in process of construction, as the homes where the boys and staff are to live are not yet complete. In the meantime some of the workshops have been transformed into dormitories and a little kitchen has been improvised. The Training College is to provide accommodation for 100 cripples while they are being taught a trade. The cost of maintenance and teaching for each pupil is £91, which is borne chiefly by the local authority of the district from which he comes, or occasionally by his own parents, if they can afford it. In the first workshop were a number of boys being taught tailoring and in another the making of shoes. All the special boots required for the hospital are manufactured in the workshops. There will later be facilities for the teaching of upholstery and other trades. Up to the present time for all the boys who have passed through the College there have been found suitable posts.

The Convalescent home was visited last. This is run on the lines of a boarding school. There are classrooms and recreation rooms in addition to large dormitories for the boys and girls. Each child has a locker for his playthings in the recreation room and another for his clothes in the dormitory. The pretty green blankets on the little girls' beds were much admired. Most of the children in the convalescent home have been patients of the hospital either at Great Portland Street or at Stanmore. They are now able to run about and play almost as freely as other children. We were interested in the overshoes improvised from discarded motor tyres which are used to protect the plaster on some of the children's feet. Matron told us that any old tyres are gladly received for this purpose. Even after they have left the Convalescent



A CASE OF SPINAL CARIES.

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