

child. At first there was a slight fear over them at coming so near so revered a personage, and all dressed in fur, but as he could call them by name and ask after their various ills with a tender sympathy, they soon began to feel more at home with the funny old man.

Round and round he ran, first with dolls for the girls, then horses and reins, with bells attached for the boys, then candies all round. Next came books and boxes of larger and more expensive toys and games. Every child had all he or she could manage to hold with the assistance of laps as well as both hands. The children enjoyed it exceedingly when Santa Claus called out Miss Buchan, the treasurer, and gave her a doll about three inches long. Next, Mrs. Donald, the secretary, and presented her with a set of tiny dishes; but the fun reached its climax when he took a wooden dancing doll from the tree and read off my name. He stoutly maintained there was no such name on the Hospital books among the patients, that it was a hospital for sick children and there could not be a Mrs. in it. I was on the top of the ladder at the time and dozens of little fingers were pointed at me, crying out: "There she is, Santa Claus! there she is!" After searching every cot, he found me at last and looking me carefully over, told me he thought I was well enough to be dismissed, therefore he would not provide for me next Christmas.

After all was over, and Santa Claus had gone away, the