

what was done in the other great cities. I realized that the press were able and willing to do great things for the children, and with the funds provided, those specially interested and working amongst the slum children could get them out of congested districts into the fresh air either by the lake or seaside or in the open country. It happened on my return that I met Mr. C. Arthur Pearson, who had some idea of starting a Fresh Air Fund in his newly established "Weekly." He asked me if I would prepare some simple scheme for giving effect to it. The English Fresh Air Fund thus inaugurated fifteen years ago, and which may be said in its particular form to have received its inception on board the splendid steamer sailing around Lake Ontario, has been the means of giving a day's holiday in the country to no less than a million and a half of children from the crowded courts and alleys of the thirty-six biggest cities of the United Kingdom."

POOR CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS.

During these years a Christmas entertainment for poor children was also carried on, and about fifteen thousand Santa Claus gifts were sent to children, with the co-operation of city mission workers. Christmas dinners to large masses of children are not now so necessary or desirable; conditions have greatly changed for the better, the true ideal being to plant the Christmas spirit in every home, and have parents and children celebrate the joyous festival together.

Among the many good friends who gave their assistance in making the Fresh Air Fund a success must be mentioned City Missionary Hall, Rev. H. C. Dixon, Miss How, Mrs. Stuart Johnston, Dr. Harley Smith, Rev. J. E. Starr, Peter McIntyre, Ald. Harry Piper, J. Ross Robertson,