

THE HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN.

THE NINETEENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

The Work of this Interesting Charity During the Past Year.

Now, when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases, brought them unto Him, and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them.—Luke 4:40.

Leaving us an example, that you should follow in His steps.—1 Peter 2:21.

Our blessed Lord Jesus while dwelling here in human form, ever bestowed upon the sick and ailing His tenderest love and gentlest ministrations. His miracles of healing were many. The blind saw, the lame walked, the lepers were cleansed, the deaf heard, yea, even the dead were raised up by the Divine touch or voice of the marvellous God-Man. To be like the Lord Jesus is one of the the highest aspirations of all His true followers. True, in this as in every other respect, His children can only attempt to follow their Master, and that at a distance, within the limitations of human power. They cannot with a word still the fevered pulse, or with a touch transform the deformed and crippled body into the erect and graceful figure; but they can pity and love, nurse, tend and alleviate pain, and against the most awful forms of disease set in array the best medical skill and science, ever seeking upon the instrumentalities used, the blessing of the Great Physician, the Divine Healer of disease.

This the Trustees and Committee of The Hospital for Sick Children are ever seeking to do for the little sick forms of humanity that fill the spacious wards of the beautiful Hospital on College street. In erecting this great building, in furnishing it so comfortably, in equipping it with all the newest and best surgical and medical appliances, in enlarging its staff to include some of the ablest physicians and specialists in our city, in securing a staff of able and efficient workers within the building, superintendent, doctors and nurses, in providing tempting food and delicacies, in supplying warm and comfortable clothing when necessary, they have ever encouraged themselves with the thought that they were following in the footsteps of the blessed Lord who has set us an example in this as well as in every other loving ministry.

This service of nursing, tending, and seeking to cure the sicknesses of the little lambs of the fold, who come to us for care, is a very exalted and helpful one, and withal it induces humility and trustfulness in the Good Shepherd who alone can heal disease.

This struggle with life and death, this battle with sickness and pain, the frequent sense of ignorance and failure, the awful feeling of defeat, when it has been demonstrated that the end of all our resources has been reached, and that human help is powerless, all draw the Christian worker, almost in spite of himself or herself, to look up in prayer to the Lord of all, to Whom all power is given in heaven and in earth. This desire for help, in hours of such weakness and helplessness, is encouraged by the admonition and promise, "Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray. And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up." Experiencing the weakness, in obedience to the command, and depending upon the promise, we have, as usual, met regularly this year for our service of prayer and praise, on Friday mornings. At this meeting a portion of God's word is read, studied or commented upon, and requests for prayer mentioned. These cover a wide range, and always include prayer for the daily bread, or maintenance of the children, for the building and furnishing funds, for trustees, physicians, superintendent, nurses and helpers, for the friends who contribute, for members of committee, for the patients generally, for special cases, for the spiritual life of the children, and for many other things connected with the work, and in numberless and unexpected ways answers have been received, and we believe that the strength of the work is centred in this Friday morning service. "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of."

The attendance at the Friday meeting has been good, though not as large as the number of names on the committee would warrant us in expecting. The average has been about ten throughout the year. During the summer frequently not more than two or three were present, but in every instance the meeting was held.