

The Home, as its name implies, is for the benefit of those who are recovering from illness in their own homes or at the hospital. Such an institution must be a necessity in any city the size of Toronto. When once the convalescent stage is reached, the hospital has done its part, and the patient, still weak, ill, and unfit for work, must make way for others who are in a worse case than himself. But this is often just the critical period, when a week or two may decide whether they will regain their wonted strength and vigor, or slowly sink into confirmed ill-health. Their imperative need is not medicine, but fresh air, wholesome, nourishing food, comfort and freedom from care. These they often cannot possibly obtain in their crowded, ill-ventilated homes, and some even sadder cases have nowhere to go, and after a few weeks of hopeless struggle, drift back to the hospital in a far worse state than they were before. For all these, as well as for tired mothers and over-worked toilers, to whom a fortnight's rest might prove a prolongation of life and usefulness, Hillcrest was designed.

In compliance with the plans of the donors and Trustees, a small weekly fee is charged. This is put at \$2.40 per week, which is 40 cents less than the rate charged in the public wards of the General Hospital, viz., \$2.80. But with this small rate of payment Hillcrest is not, nor will it ever be, entirely self-supporting, if we are to maintain a high standard of excellence. Recognizing this fact, it has been proposed to endeavor to secure a small sum as an endowment fund, the interest of which could be used every year. Miss Evans, our kind friend, has promised if it is raised to start it with a donation of £100 sterling. But this fund is as yet a long way off in the future, and for some years the utmost that we hope for is that with the kind assistance of our friends we may be able to pay our way.

During the year 130 patients have been received at Hillcrest. A few of these were chronic cases for whom no permanent re-establishment of health could be expected, but even in these, except in two cases, the general improvement has been very marked. Of the other class all without exception have gone away much benefitted by their stay, the gain in health and strength being sometimes almost marvellously rapid. Most of the patients have come on City orders from the General Hospital, the rest from their own homes, where they either pay for themselves or are maintained by private charity, or by the church to which they belong. The managers hope that this second class will be much larger in the future than it has been in the past; for many a weary toiler among our poorer brothers and sisters might be saved months of pain and weakness by a little timely rest and change. The charge for maintenance is so small that we feel sure many would