

in hospital work, especially in the treatment of curvature of the spine. A delegation will visit the States to procure information as to the best appliances available.

Mr. James L. Hughes, Public School Inspector, was introduced and said he was the bearer of a letter from Mrs. Gzowski. He gave it to one of the tots, who, in turn, handed it to Mrs. Heron, of the Ladies' Committee, and then it was found to contain a gift of money. Mr. Hughes suggested that the taxpayers would not complain if the School Board furnished the best desk and apparatus for the new school room.

"To-day," he continued, "the kindergarten children of the city gave away thousands of presents. We should teach children to give; if we give to them all the time it makes them selfish. I would like the Public school children to see this building and this school, and go back and tell of the good work being done here and aid it by their contributions."

The chairman, deprecating personal references, stated that each one of the trustees is personally liable for the \$100,000 debt upon the building until that is reduced to \$50,000. Each one has to personally pay out \$500 interest on this debt and must do it again in a few days. An appeal has been made to every minister in Ontario, circular letters have been sent out to citizens. The Ladies' Committee is enthusiastic and thoroughly harmonious and earnest. There is no greater claim upon us than to look after every sick child; every sick and poor child has only to knock at the door and it will fly wide open.

Prizes were then given to these children: Fourth book, Hugh Patton; Third book, Maggie Cowan, Maggie Jeffery, equal; Second book, Olive Wright, Jennie Ross, equal; part two, Alice Brooker; part one, Frances Pollard; juniors, Ida Dodds, Evelyn Kew, equal; good conduct, Beatrice Stewart.

Mrs. Timothy Eaton presented the children with confectionery, and they returned thanks in a little song. Ida Dodds and Evelyn Kew sang a duet, "I Dreamed that I was Grandpapa."

Mr. Walter S. Lee, Public school trustee, said that this Hospital is a most useful institution, and the city could not do without it; it is a monument of great labour, and it is regrettable that it should be hampered with a large debt; the country should not allow one man to do so much. Mr. Lee suggested that the Government should aid more, but the chairman suggested that "the Government had acted handsomely, and materially aided in keeping cases two years.

We must be reasonable. There are many other hospitals to be supported. Hon. Mr. Gibson and Hon. Mr. Hardy have visited the institution, and take a deep interest in it."

Rev. Dr. Thomas, of the Jarvis street Baptist church, came in just in time to speak a few encouraging and helpful words. "It is a work that appeals in every direction, and is worthy of all appreciation and praise."

The interesting exercises were brought to a close by all singing "God Save the Queen," followed by the benediction pronounced by Dr. Thomas. Then the visitors were escorted through the building and shown its operations.

SANTA AND SICK CHILDREN.

How the Merry Monarch of the Magic Land Surprised His Favourite Little Ones—The Pretty Picture He Saw.

"It is a veritable fairyland," said a gentleman, as he stood in the doorway of Ward "J" in the Hospital for Sick Children on College street on Tuesday evening, Dec. 24 (Xmas eve). In Christmas trees, glittering with their burden of gifts. The green branches were laden with brightly-painted toys, gaily-dressed dolls, and every conceivable thing dear to the heart of a child. Festoons of ground pine ran from the tops over to the walls of the room. Along the west wall a set of white screens cut off an avenue leading to the side of a cottage, leaning against which was a large red chimney. This of itself made a pretty picture.

But the real interest centred in the eighty sick and crippled children clustered about the beautiful trees. On cots, couches and chairs they were ranged along the room in the form of an ellipse, all facing inwards. For weeks they had heard whispers of the mysterious Santa Claus, growing up out of a chimney and bringing them "something nice." Many an ache and pain seemed less severe because of this dream. And now the time for the merry monarch's visit had come! How the eyes grew big with wonder as they looked upon the magnificent trees and their pretty burdens! How they smiled up into the kindly faces of their gentle nurses! Some poor tots who had never before seen fairyland could only gaze with a surprise that sealed their lips; it was too wonderful to talk about.

The friends who were present to witness this annual distribution of gifts to the sick children stood in a line behind the cots; the nurses were clustered near, their white habits in fitting contrast with the dark street dresses of the visitors; the clean white cots, with their groups of

eager children, the and shimmer of th in a thousand refl down over all from ed the room into a made a picture, never be lost from little ones.

Signor D'Alesand engaged and ente with excellent could get around. Hospital, came do "I've just had v He's at the Unio here directly. Th he had to take th Toronto. He'll be

No more welc brought, and the ceived with gene there was a mor chestra struck up

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The Simian was scion of "the m cavorting down t and there, shaki child, picking up at another—all t lent time in a fairly set the c They stood up— shouted with r their hands, th were tired. No vigorous than t comical monkey! He graciously re dance.

Then there wa the door; a hu hind the screen music and up c the children's over—jolly old S ertson, eldest s the Board, rosy old me He told th given them all them more nex them "A Mer down the chimm the cottage op

He ordered h to cut down t resonant voice written on eac happy in antici were they in of this Hospita ministered to the joy of thos they received feel in their more blessed t