



THE HOMES OF THE POOR—WHERE THE PATIENTS COME FROM.

WHERE THE SICK CHILDREN COME FROM.

FROM such places as this are many of the little ones stolen away to bright rooms, clean beds, and wholesome food. In the boy leaning on the crutch is the problem of life being debated. He is gazing out of the shattered window across the squalid yard over the unlovely roofs at the ever lovely skies beyond, and the little man—the making of a great man if he only gets a chance—is thinking, thinking, thinking. The little girl on the unattractive bed has no doll, and no rubber ball, and no skipping rope, and in her little wasted body there is hardly strength and spirit to play even had she them. And more, the sullen, soured, and disappointed woman on the stool would not let her make any noise from fear of waking the puling infant in the rude and shabby cradle. The air is poisonous and close, reeking with the fumes of liquor, smoke, and rank food—haste to the rescue.

The endeavour is to teach every child to pray "Give us each day our daily bread" with deep meaning and sincerity. Morning family prayer is held in the wards by our lady superintendent, but evening prayer is conducted by the children themselves. They pray for their nurses, each other by name, and if any child has been conspicuously naughty, for forgiveness. If an operation is pending they ask very simply and trustfully for strength for the little one, that it "mayn't hurt much." If any are leaving, cured, they thank God and pray that some other "little sick child who has no nice home" may come in the vacant place. They never fail to pray for "Night Nurse, who is up all alone," for the matron, and often have the little voices been lifted up for the president in her work. "Surely hands so upheld must be "strong and do exploits." "Out of the mouth of babes thou hast perfected praise," and thus the sick ward becomes a nursery

for the spirit of prayer. It may be said that all the household are consecrated for the work. How else could they do what they have often to do when the children come in covered by both disease and filth, and these frequently repulsive-looking children, in many cases the offspring of wretched, diseased, and drunken parents? Last year "A Christmas letter to the well children of Canada" was published in leaflet form and enclosed in the report of that year, describing the Christmas festival. So many gifts came in that there was a surplus given to children of the city who had nothing for Christmas. One little maiden, whose mother sews for a large wholesale house, showed with great pride her Christmas present, the only one her poor mother had been able to provide: the leg of a turkey dried, with a sinew left so as to open and close the foot.

This poor little lad (in small cut) held so tenderly by his nurse lest his injured foot should be hurt, is going to have a treat, which by him has been looked forward to all day. His dark eyes, which usually look so sad and give evidence of much suffering, are now brilliant with excitement, and his thin cheeks are faintly flushed as he holds on tightly to his nurse.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN ISAIAH, JEREMIAH, AND EZEKIEL.

B.C. 598.] LESSON VII. [Feb. 14.

THE NEW COVENANT.

Jer. 31. 27-37. Memory verses, 33, 34.

GOLDEN TEXT.

I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more. Jer. 31. 34.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

The way of salvation is through a new heart bestowed by Jesus Christ.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.

Chapters 30 and 31 are a gleam of light in the darkness. *See the house of Israel.* It was then like a devastated field. God promised to make the country abound in people, as the field with grain if sown with wheat. *So will I sate,* etc.—The countries which took them captive sent them back again. *A sour grape*—Rather, sour grapes that injured the teeth. *Set on edge*—Dulled, ruined. In the exile the people imagined they were suffering for their fathers' sins, but really no more than they deserved. *Covenant . . . with their fathers.* (See Exod. 24; Heb. 8. See also Deut., chaps. 5, 28, 29.) They were to be prospered if they kept the law. *Although I was a husband*—Joined in closest love and most solemn vows. *This shall be the covenant*—He would give them new hearts by the coming of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, providing also for forgiveness. *The ordinances of the moon*—The sure and regular order of nature would be a proof of God's faithfulness to his promises. They proved his faithfulness, his kindness, and his power.

Find in this lesson—

1. That sin is sure to be punished.
2. That God wants to save us from sin.
3. That he will give us new hearts if we are willing.
4. That God keeps all his promises.

REVIEW EXERCISE.

1. Who was Jeremiah? "A prophet of Judah just before the great captivity."
2. What was his work? "To stem the tide of evil, and save the nation from destruction."
3. What did he foretell? "That they should be carried away captive, and Jerusalem be destroyed on account of their sins."
4. What promise did he proclaim from God? "That the people should be restored, and at some time righteousness should triumph."
5. How was this fulfilled? "By the return from exile after seventy years, and by the coming of Jesus Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit."

CATECHISM QUESTION.

7. What is repentance?
Repentance is true sorrow for sin, with sincere effort to forsake it.
Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions.—Ezekiel 18. 30.

"FEELS SO MISERABLE!"

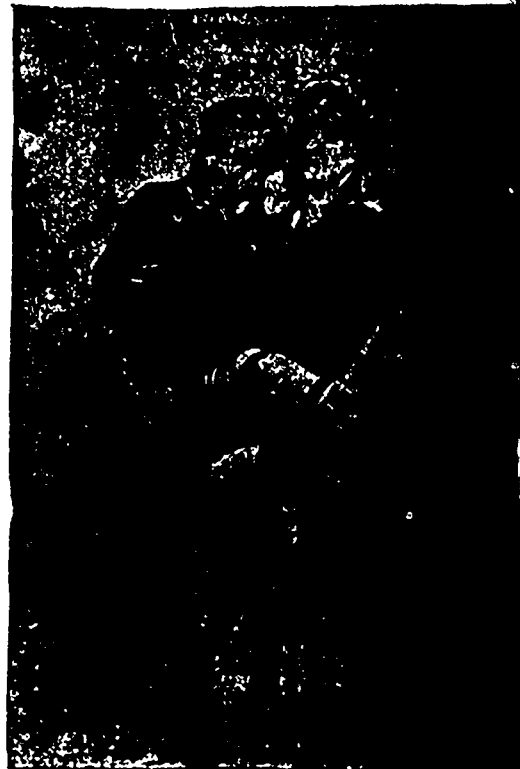
ALICE "feels so miserable!"
Is it any wonder? There is a poison-plant growing in her soul, one poison-stalk and five poison-branches. It is enough to make the strongest feel miserable, send them to bed, and move their friends to send for the doctor.

The five poison-branches, let us name them: discontent, greed, mortification, dislike, disparagement. These all grow out of one parent stalk, envy.

Alice is a poor singer, and this poverty leads to discontent. Jennie is a good singer, and what a greed Alice has for that superior voice! There is mortification when her nipped voice makes it squeak beside Jennie's rich, full tones. What a dislike Alice has for the owner of that fine voice, and what disparagement of Jennie as a singer Alice shows in her comments on that voice!

Five poison-branches out of one stalk: and if there is not strychnine enough in them, we may be able to trace another poisonous outshoot; but there is enough to vitiate any character. You may know of a singer thus poisoned. "Send for the doctor at once," do you say?

No; the best remedy is a grip of Christian love and common sense on



that poisonous old plant; then, tugging at it vigorously pull it up by the roots! If Jennie is a canary, and you are not, then be thankful that the world is richer for that one sweet voice, and that you have such resources in the love of Christ that you can be contented to be just what he has made you.

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