

they were polite to each other and to the visitors, and, evidently, were under excellent discipline.

Mr. J. Ross Robertson, President of the Board of Trustees, was in the chair, and introduced the programme by saying: "This annual prize-giving in the Hospital has been customary for years. Before the summer holidays a similar meeting is held. Our purpose is to give these little ones here not only a renewed body, but an improved mind. These book-tokens are given as a stimulus to those who go out and join in the public school exercises, so that they may work as energetically there as they do here.

"I cannot say much that is new about the work of the Hospital for Sick Children. The work of the past five years is a remarkable page, not only in civic, but in provincial history. This is the mother charity Hospital for Children in the Dominion; it is the second in the world in size, and elegance and perfection of equipment. It is doing a work in caring for sick children that commends it to every one in Toronto and throughout Ontario. By the aid of the Government we carry on a work here that is not surpassed on this side of the broad Atlantic.

"It is strictly unsectarian; it receives patients irrespective of creed, colour or nationality. We are only too glad to do what we can to help the little ones. Since its organization we have helped 14,000 such children as you see here. Last year more than 3,500 sufferers were treated in this building, either as inmates or as out-door patients. This is evidence of a work that should commend itself to every one in the land.

"It costs \$80 a day to keep this building open; it costs \$1.05 per day to keep each child in these cots and beds; it costs 72 cents per day for food for each one; it costs \$26,000 per year to operate the institution. Of this the Ontario Government contributes \$10,000 and the city of Toronto \$5,000, leaving \$11,000 to be made up by voluntary contributions.

"Our Christmas appeal has already borne good fruit. Yesterday the T. Eaton Company sent me a cheque for \$200 from the firm and from Mr. E. Y. Eaton. The Canada Paper Company has sent \$50, and many thoughtful citizens from \$25 to \$50 each. We are as grateful for the smaller amounts as for cheques drawing hundreds.

"The people have an interest in this Hospital. Last year they gave us between \$11,000 and \$12,000. We aim to do the greatest good to the greatest number. Last year 85 children per day were treated here and 20 per day were given outside treatment; next year the

average number for outside treatment we think will be 100 per day, and we expect to handle 6,000 cases during the year.

After a few words of welcome to the friends present the children sang a "Song of Welcome," and Rev. W. A. Hunter, of the Erskine Presbyterian Church, spoke: "This city is noted for the philanthropy of its great men. This institution has been made a grand success. Everything has been done to make the children happy and comfortable; there is no better home anywhere than this; the little ones are always bright and happy. Every church in the city might do something for it, and every Sabbath school should support a cot, thus making Christmas here happy and joyous. We should deny ourselves to stand by this institution."

After the scholars sang "Only an Armour Bearer," Rev. W. F. Wilson, of Trinity Methodist Church, gave them a bright, sparkling little talk. "Your nice recitations and the songs you sang a year ago when I was here linger in my memory.

Reference was made to the skill of the doctors, "the tender hands and sweet and kind voices" of the nurses. "This is the children's world," continued the speaker. "Great men are writing books for boys and girls; they write songs for them, they make laws for them, doctors are studying for them. This is Christmas time, isn't it? It is a bright world all the time. Why should the snow go away if there were no birds? This is the most peculiar and nicest family I know. There is a growing spirit among the people for the Hospital, and an increasing interest in it throughout the province. A Sunday school collection in every church the last Sunday of each year would be a good thing."

The school sang "Fluttering Down," and then Warden Massie, of the Central Prison, spoke, saying, among other things:—"No institution in Toronto has stronger claims upon the citizens than this hospital. People generally have no idea of the number of children who go through it in a year. The work so ably and admirably established by your chairman gives him every confidence in its increasing popularity. It is not confined to the city; it has gone abroad; the doors are wide open to the suffering little ones; no work more strongly appeals to the sympathy of the public. Many rich men have not given anything to this charity; we should try to get them to give and be their own executors!"

The chairman here remarked that the school accommodation in the Hospital would be increased. Soon a gymnasium would be established, something essential

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