

To the Sunday School children of Glasgow.

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Publisher: [MacLehose],
Reference number: b24933697
Persistent URL: <https://wellcomelibrary.org/item/b24933697>
Catalogue record: https://search.wellcomelibrary.org/iii/encore/record/C__Rb2493369

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For a complete and interesting account of the Sick Children's Hospital, see "The Royal Hospital for Sick Children and its Dispensary," published by Messrs. James MacLehose & Sons, 61 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow—cloth, 2s. ; paper covers, 1s.

TO THE
SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN OF GLASGOW.

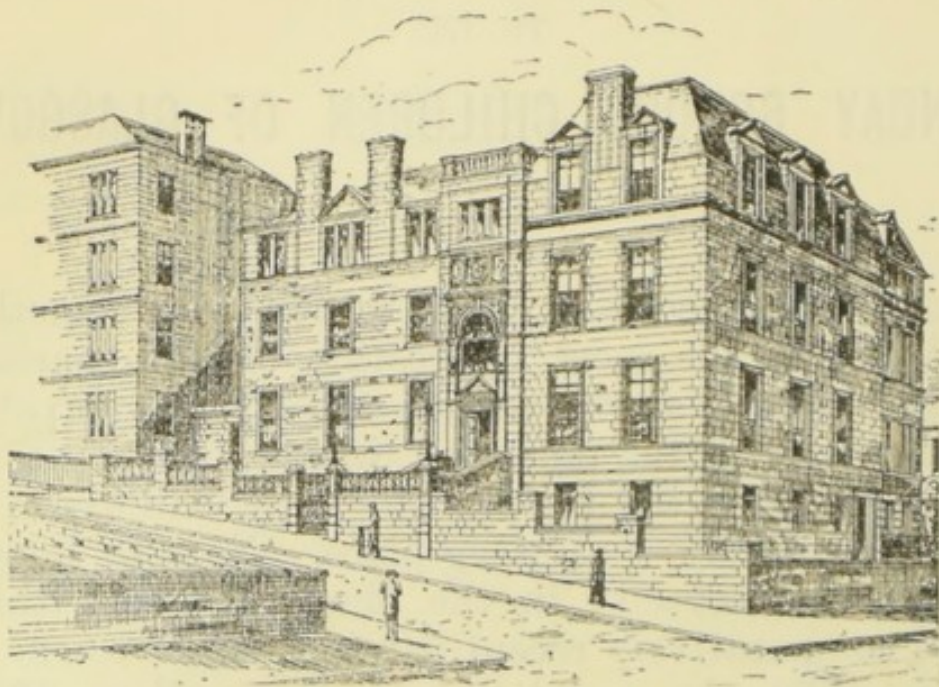
DEAR CHILDREN,—I wish to tell you something about one of the most interesting of the charitable institutions of Glasgow, and to enlist your sympathies for the poor little ones for whose benefit it was instituted. It is the Hospital for Sick Children.

Glasgow is now a very big place. Next to London, it is the largest city in the Empire; but within a period comparatively recent it was a small town. So late as 1779, the population was less than 43,000. Including the suburbs, which are really part of Glasgow, it now exceeds 780,000. The increase has been rapid, and—as in all great cities, especially in a great manufacturing city like Glasgow where there are so many of the working classes—the increase of population has been accompanied by an increase of poverty, and intemperance, and sickness. You, who are, most of you, the children of well-to-do parents, and enjoy the comforts of a home, with good food and warm clothing, can have very little idea of the want, and misery, and attendant sickness, to be found in the dwellings of the very poor; and, as might be expected, it is the helpless little children who suffer most.

In 1883, there was a hospital for sick children in every considerable city in Europe; but, incredible as it may appear, in the great and wealthy city of Glasgow, where it was so sorely needed, there was none. At that date, the infant mortality in Glasgow was appalling. Of the total deaths which took place each year, 50 per cent. (one half) were of children under five years of age, and that percentage is not yet much reduced.

At length the attention of the public was thoroughly roused, and, notwithstanding much prejudice and opposition, a Hospital was provided. It was com-

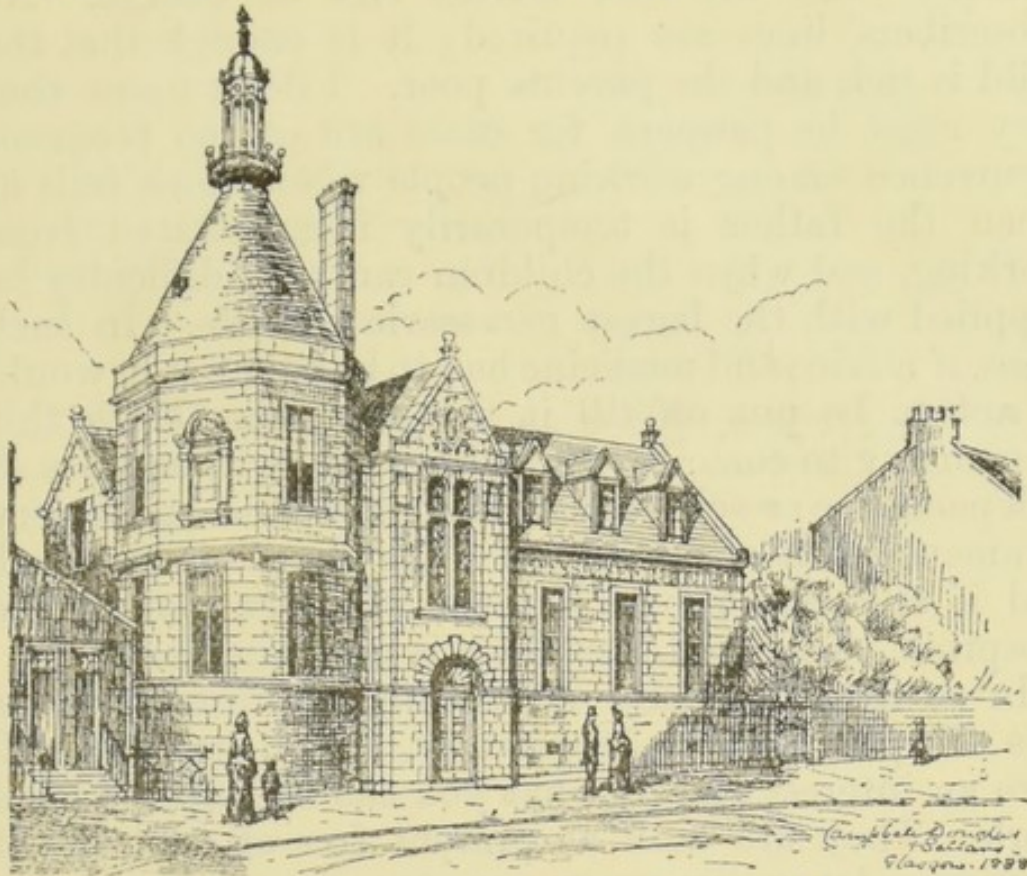
pleted and opened on the 8th of January, 1883. Here is a view of the Hospital. It is in a fine airy situation



in Scott Street, Garnethill, and it has proved a great success. At first it consisted of one house, a villa surrounded by vacant ground, but some years afterwards another villa adjoining it, with more ground, was acquired. The new house was joined to the old. An additional ward was thus acquired, with sleeping and other accommodation for the Hospital staff, and various other much needed conveniences. The Hospital now contains seventy cots, of which thirty-two are for medical cases and thirty-eight for surgical.

But something more was needed. From the first it was known that without an efficient Dispensary no child's hospital can be complete. There are many sick children who do not require hospital treatment, as they are only suffering from complaints which prompt attention at a dispensary is sufficient to arrest and cure, but without the treatment thus provided, and the aid so easily obtained, hundreds of these cases would develop into serious illness, and some might end in death. To meet the emergency, the Duchess of Montrose, with other ladies of rank and influence, by means of a great bazaar or fancy fair, which they promoted, raised a fund sufficient not only to erect a Dispensary but to invest a considerable amount for the permanent benefit of the Institution.

Here is a view of the Dispensary. It is situated in



West Graham Street, near the northern end of Cambridge Street, a central and very suitable place from its nearness to the Cowcaddens, a district where there is much poverty and sickness.

Within the limits of this short notice I have not space to describe the daily work at the Hospital and Dispensary, or the nature of the various cases treated. You should yourselves visit the Hospital. It is a very bright place, and the Lady Superintendent will be glad to show it to you. As no infectious cases are admitted you may go through all the wards without any fear. It is doing great good to many poor little children who are sick. There prevails in it also a fine moral and religious tone, but all sectarianism in religion is excluded. Many of the children when they leave the Hospital carry back with them to their poor homes new ideas—a respect for order and cleanliness, and also for religion, previously unknown to them, and which may be expected to exert a wholesome influence in the home circle—on the parents as well as the children.

The same good is being done, and the same beneficial influence is being exercised at the Dispensary. Every

child that is brought there is received, and gets medicine and the best advice free of charge. No subscribers' lines are required: it is enough that the child is sick and the parents poor. I don't mean that they must be paupers, for cases are of too frequent occurrence among working people when work fails or when the father is temporarily incapacitated from working, and when the children can with difficulty be supplied with the barest necessaries of life. In such cases, if advice and medicine had to be paid for, it would be apt to be put off till it was too late. With this Dispensary to come to, the mother can, without loss of independence or self-respect, bring her child at the very commencement of its illness. The disease is arrested, and if any case proves serious, it is sent on to the Hospital. The good thus done is incalculable.

In so important and interesting an institution as this Hospital and its Dispensary, I feel sure you will take an interest and do what you can to help the good work. They are both at present free of debt, but it requires a large sum every year to support them.

The Princess Louise is the Patron of the Hospital, and takes a warm interest in it. Not long ago, Her Royal Highness paid it a visit—going through the wards and stopping at each little cot and saying something kind to the child in it.

The Hospital has also been honoured by the notice and approval of our dear Queen. It was recently represented to Her Majesty that whatever would tend to give it importance in the estimation of the working and poorer classes would promote its usefulness, and that nothing would more conduce to this than that it should be known that the Institution was honoured by the approval of the Queen. With this view, Her Majesty was solicited to confer on it the high honour of its being called the Royal Hospital. The answer was very gratifying. The Marquis of Lothian, Secretary for Scotland, in a letter addressed to the Lord Provost, intimated that "Her Majesty has been pleased to grant the title of 'Royal' to the Hospital." It is now called accordingly "The Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Glasgow."

A. M.