

Baltimore's Home Of The Friendless Really Is Very Friendly Place

Decidedly A Misnomer Is The Name Of This Institution
Where Orphaned Little Ones Find A Real Home And
The True Home Atmosphere, Under The Watch-
ful Care Of Women Who Are Imbued With
The Spirit Of Service And Love.

By Emily Emerson Lantz

THE Home of the Friendless of Baltimore City is an institution that belies its name, because as soon as a child is committed to the guardianship of the home, that child is surrounded by friends whose chief concern is to promote its happiness and welfare. The institution very beautifully embodies the home part of its name, but the friendless suggestion is left outside the big hospitable doors that open into the home's spacious buildings.

On Christmas morning just passed a lady of warmly sympathetic heart arrived at the home, laden with little gifts to be distributed among the children. She said Jean Webster's pathetic tale, "Daddy Long-Legs," had so aroused her compassion for children committed to institutional care that she had been moved to bring her own little offerings to lay upon the Christmas altar of friendless children, but to her joyful surprise she found in the home no pathetic Judy, hungering for affection and understanding, but more than 100 healthy, happy children having the time of their young lives, surrounded by friends and rejoicing in Christmas trees and gifts selected with careful thought of the individual preferences and needs of each child.

The Home of the Friendless is one of the oldest philanthropies of Baltimore. Its founding dates back 66 years and its beginning was November 20, 1854, when a dozen or more ladies gathered in an obscure locality, No. 17 Neighbor street, in East Baltimore, near the jail, to organize a board of government for a "Home for Friendless Girls." Two days later, applicants were received, and the work that was to prove so fruitful of results was begun. One of the ladies, the late Mrs. James H. Wilson, had been responsible for the rent of the home, each lady paid in her annual subscription and, as significant of the home's golden purpose, one of the ladies added to her subscription a gold dollar, she had found in the street.

Work Constantly Extended.

The work begun thus in faith prospered. In a few months the managers were compelled to take a larger house in Bure's street and within two years a still larger premises on Pearl, near Franklin street. Then, as the scope of the work continued to widen, the managers wisely concluded that the child who most needed such guardianship as the home offered, was the child the home wanted most, and whenever an utterly destitute child, from whatever cause, asked admittance, the doors of the institution swung wide to welcome it. A vision of the building of a larger home, especially adapted to the needs of the benevolence, began to take form in the minds of those interested in the work and with the assistance of State and city and through private benefactions the present spacious buildings were erected. The site chosen was then known as Ross and Townsend streets, but familiar today as Druid Hill and Lafayette avenues. The girls' building was completed and opened April 2, 1861. Up to this time the mission of the home had been exclusively to girls, but there existed no Protestant asylum that would then admit boys over 8 years of age, and as the lot adjoining the one occupied by the girls' home had already been secured, the managers assumed the further responsibility of erecting a commodious boys' home that was completed in March, 1871, just 10 years after the opening of the girls' new building.

A Miniature Hospital.

More recently a legacy of \$26,000, given by a loving friend of the children, Mrs. Martha E. Gray, enabled the building on the grounds of the home of a completely appointed child's hospital. This building affords facility for separating sick children from those in health, and to the hospital, as well as to wisest medical supervision and trained nursing, is doubtless due the fine health standard and exceptionally low mortality list of the institution. During the past seven years, only four deaths have occurred; two of these resulting from influenza, during which epidemic 80 children in the home were stricken with the disease. Annual reports frequently state: "Died—none." One manager, whose duty it is to make funeral ar-

rangements, tells how, after several years without the death of any child, she called up the undertaker who always served the home and found him reluctant to conduct the funeral, because, he said, they had evidently been giving their patronage elsewhere. She replied that the lack of patronage was due to the fortunate circumstance that no child had died.

A Capable Superintendent.

Miss M. Martha Kilgour, the present superintendent of the home, is a Canadian by birth, a graduate and at one time assistant superintendent of the Toronto General Hospital, and later associated with the Maryland General Hospital of this city. She is a woman whose professional knowledge fits her for intelligent supervision of the health and diet of children and whose administrative work has admirably trained her for the executive duties of superintendent. Progressive in every way, scientific in her methods, she possesses withal a womanly sympathy with children, and feminine appreciation of the power of a stylish little flock or a gay hair ribbon to bring sunshine into a child's life. While mothering over 100 children, she takes pride in sending her boys and girls to school and Sunday-school in no way differing in dress from other school children.

Spacious Buildings.

Children are received into the home from 2 to 10 years of age and kept until they can be reunited with relatives, placed in carefully selected homes or entered at such a school as McDonogh. Each child upon entering is kept three weeks in the hospital until physical fitness is assured and always, day or night, a teacher or helper is with them. The buildings are spacious, with airy dormitories and sunny, well ventilated nurseries and class rooms. There are kindergarten and primary classes for little tots and the older children attend the public schools and in small groups are sent to Sunday-schools of different denominations.

Children's Toyland.

A large play room, that is veritable toyland, is the children's own domain. Here are dolls and dollhouses, games and tiny rocking chairs. Teddy bears and Mary's little lambs cuddle in corners and dolls sit in state around tea tables with dolls' dishes set before them. Here, even after Twelfth Night, a Christmas tree was still standing in all the glory of tinsel garlands and shining balls. The boys voted that the dining room "looked lonely" after their Christmas tree had been removed, so in the playroom, of which the children have the care themselves, the sentinel pine of Yuletide was permitted to remain a while longer.

Carefully Trained.

The average age of children in the home is too young to expect of them other than simple childish duties, but if for any cause they remain long enough to need domestic instruction, they are carefully taught many home duties. All clothing worn by children is made in the big, pleasant sewing room, and some of the little needlewomen are permitted to add finishing touches to frocks or are even able to add a bit of embroidery to a garment. Boys make their own beds and dust their furniture, while girls take care of lockers and attend to many little duties. In the wide corridors plants flourish greenly and add a glimpse of beauty to pleasant apartments that are furnished in most homelike fashion as well as with elegance. In one of these

wide, sunny halls the girls have their own little club meetings.

The home has ministered to thousands of children, of whom a large number were admitted in infancy and maintained through the helpless years of childhood. Many who have entered feeble and afflicted have gone forth well and strong, and this winter a little bride was married from the home, to whom the institution is as dear as the private home of any girl. In the bride's infancy her mother had assumed the head of a department of the home work, bringing her little daughter with her. Here mother and child remained while the child advanced to girlhood and blossomed into womanhood, until finally she was married, like Judy of "Daddy Long-Legs" romance, only she was wedded beneath the roof that had so long and lovingly sheltered her.

At Christmas a young man of 20 years, who annually returns joyously to spend his holidays at the home that cherished him in childhood, presented the institution with a fine violin to indicate his appreciation of and affection for the guardians of his youth.

Prize Food Babies.

The physical condition of the children under Miss Kilgour's supervision speaks for itself in rosy cheeks and plump little figures. They are children with friendly, courteous manners and responsive voices, and their moral instruction is no less carefully considered than their

health and deportment. While many go to various Sunday-schools in the morning, all, from youngest to oldest, assemble in the afternoon for the Sunday-school conducted in the building. From each dormitory opens a house mother's bedroom, and under her guidance little hearts learn prayers and Bible stories.

In summer the children remove to Montevideo, the home's country residence and here, in garden and orchards, the children enjoy about the only luxury their city home lacks, which is abundant space for outdoor play and work. The town home has its yards, its trees and swings, its sun parlor in the hospital and porches to the main buildings, but at Montevideo the children enjoy real country and the change of environment essential to every life.

The board of managers of the Home of the Friendless includes:

President—Mrs. Matthew S. Atkinson.
First Vice-President—Mrs. Lemuel Pumphrey.
Second Vice-President—Mrs. William M. Powell.
Third Vice-President—Miss Nannie T. Erick.
Treasurer—Mrs. William M. Hayden.

Recording Secretary—Mrs. B. Deford Webb.

Assistant Recording Secretary—Mrs. Thomas H. Fitchett.

Corresponding Secretary—Mrs. Randolph Barton, Jr.

Assistant Corresponding Secretary—Mrs. John R. Dorsey.

Miss Annie W. Armstrong, Miss Clara Benninghaus, Miss Mary B. Bergland, Miss Isabel M. Bond, Mrs. George Hamilton Cook, Mrs. F. A. Davis, Mrs. Lily Tyson Elliott, Mrs. Charles G. Fitzgerald, Mrs. Julius Friedenwald, Mrs. Asa Bird Gardiner, Mrs. H. Carleton Greene, Mrs. V. B. Hoff, Mrs. J. E. L. Holmes, Miss Marion Hopkins, Mrs. J. Arthur Nelson, Mrs. Tilghman G. Pitts, Mrs. D. Stewart Ridgely, Mrs. C. Harty Reeves, Mrs. J. G. Rouse, Mrs. James L. Sellman, Mrs. Winford H. Smith, Mrs. A. Morris Tyson, Mrs. Andrew G. Waters, Mrs. B. Deford Webb, Mrs. Oscar E. Webb, Mrs. Richard J. White, Miss Maud Whiting and Miss A. V. Woodward.

Trustees—Dr. J. H. Mason Knox, William M. Hayden, Waldo Newcomer, James Arthur Nelson, Randolph Barton, Thomas H. Fitchett, Matthew S. Atkinson, Jr., Miles White, Jr., Henry S. Dulaney and Edward L. Robinson.
Counsel—A. Morris Tyson.

Physicians—Dr. A. Lee Ellis and Dr. Jesse W. Downey, Jr.

Teachers—Girls, Miss Anna Little; Kindergarten, Miss Bula Smith.

Superintendent—Miss M. Martha Kilgour.

Agent and Visitor—Miss Isabel Wilmer.

Counselors—Mrs. William Eliason, Mrs. Blanchard Randall, Mrs. Charles R. Weld, Mrs. Thomas B. Harrison and Francis A. White.