

WOMEN IN CHARITY WORK

GIVE NOT ONLY MONEY BUT PERSONAL EFFORT.

Many Women of Wealth and Social Prominence Who Found Hospitals, Fresh Air Homes, Day Nurseries and Similar Institutions and Find Time Amid Social Duties to Manage Them.

The action of Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt in providing \$1,000,000 to build model homes for sufferers from tuberculosis in this city calls attention to a phase of the lives of some New York women which is perhaps less generally discussed than the incidents concerning them to which their wealth or their social position gives popular interest.



MRS. C. B. ALEXANDER.

It is certain that by searching around a busy one who takes an interest in the subject will soon decide that the old-fashioned virtues of self-sacrifice and thoughtfulness for others are far from being extinct in the women whose clothes,

social entertainments given there, and of late years in her newer home uptown the social entertainments have been even more numerous. A daughter of Gov. Jewell of Connecticut, she has had a successful social career. All this is very well known, but comparatively few persons in or out of her circle know about the large sums of money and the many hours of work she gives to the cause of day nurseries here and elsewhere.

Thirty years ago there was one day nursery in New York. In 1892 there were only eighteen, including the Jewell, in Macdougall street, founded and maintained by Mrs. Dodge in memory of an infant son. About that time a few of the women most interested in the work, headed by Mrs. Dodge, called a conference. As a result thirty day nurseries were discovered in this country.

This conference led to others, the women of Chicago inviting a convention there five years later to organize a national body called the Federation of Day Nurseries. Of this Mrs. Dodge was made president, an office she still holds, now having the oversight of 383 day nurseries, seventy-five of which are in Greater New York and fifty-one in Manhattan. Those in Manhattan are the Association of Day Nurseries of New York City, of which Mrs. Dodge is also president. It was Mrs. Dodge who opened the Hop-



MRS. JAMES SPEYER IN LEFT HAND CORNER.

I watched the leaden soldiers go With different uniforms and drills Among the bedclothes through the hills,

And sometimes sent my ships in fleets All up and down among the sheets, Or brought my trees and houses out And planted cities all about.

There are thirteen cribs in the Babies Hospital, furnished by many New York women. There are eighteen beds endowed in perpetuity, each representing a payment of \$5,000 by a New York woman. Every year there are from three to ten beds supported by as many women prominent in the social world. The summer adjunct of the hospital at Oceanic, N. J., includes among its supporters women who are often mistakenly identified more particularly with the frivolous side of social life. To come down to particulars, one of the most liberal contributors of both time and money is Mrs. Oliver G. Jennings, whose house is in East Seventy-second street, at Newport and in Connecticut are among the gayest in the social circle to which she belongs. Mrs. Jennings is one of the founders of the hospital, vice-president of the board of woman managers, vice-president also of the board of directors, both by reason of the personal interest she manifests and the size of her contributions to the support of the hospital.

More than one thousand babies were received at the hospital last year, of which 50 per cent. were cured, and of the 500 who were over a year old if any failed to get Christmas gifts and the toys dear to babyhood the year round it was not the fault of Mrs. Jennings nor that of Mrs. John Jay Knox, president of the board of women managers; nor of the associated vice-presidents, Mrs. George K. Sheldon and Mrs. William Moir, who by gifts of money and attendance at committee meetings and personal supervision of the small inmates of the hospital show a consistent devotion to this one form of charity at least.

Not far from the Babies Hospital is the Nursery and Child's Hospital, the first of its kind to be started in this city and in some respects unique even yet. Half a century ago half a dozen fashionable women put their heads together and decided that it was high time New York had some institution where babies sick or well could be cared for. The Charity Ball, still an annual feature of New York's social life, was the outcome of that conference. From that day to this the board of women managers of the institution has included some of the smartest and wealthiest women in society.

Associated with it now is Mrs. Edward J. Berwind, whose home in upper Fifth avenue is one of the costliest in New York, the private entertainments given there and at her Newport house ranking with the extravagant variety for which New York is famed. Mrs. Berwind's name is on the list of contributors to half a dozen of the charities in this city which help children and women, but to the Nursery and Child's Hospital she gives herself, visiting it regularly, giving her personal influence to every plan for increasing its usefulness and for making the mothers and babies cared for in the place better off for being there.

If Mrs. Charles B. Alexander has a pet charity it is the Orthopedic Hospital, in East Fifty-ninth street. She is not alone in this preference. Mrs. William D. Sloane, Mrs. Whitelaw Reid, Mrs. Marion Story, Mrs. John Hobart Warren and Miss Caroline White are among the women supervisors who for a good many years have been classed as large givers of time and money to the hospital. None of these women contents herself with sending a check in answer to a request for assistance.

Mrs. Sloane's gift at one time built a large section of the hospital. She and Mrs. Warren serve on a standing committee which looks after such details as

enjoyed through her generosity. In fact in providing amusement and dainties for the small cripples Mrs. Alexander ties with Mrs. Sloane. At the same time the house of Mrs. Alexander, which adjoins that of Mrs. Vanderbilt on Fifty-eighth street, and Mrs. Sloane's house at Fifty-second street and Fifth avenue are easily two of the show places of New York, and the social calendar of each from beginning to end of the winter is crowded enough to furnish a reasonable excuse for cutting out even an occasional visit to a hospital, let alone the time required to visit it regularly once and sometimes three times a week, and to take an active part in projected entertainments to bring money into the hospital treasury.

The gift of a large sum of money from Miss White was the means last year of doubling the service in one of the most important clinics. A country branch of the hospital opened nearly four years ago at White Plains is among the examples of the generosity of New York's rich women of which little is known.

The main building and the pavilions and the industrial building at the country branch were erected by Miss Emily Watson and for the care of the hundred and more patients treated there Miss Watson alone pays all the expenses. An unofficial statement of the cost of equipping the country branch is \$1,000,000, turned over by the donor in a lump sum.

To a large extent the Woman's Hospital is a monument to the generosity of the rich New York woman. When the late Dr. Marion Sims declared fifty odd years ago that there ought to be some place in New York where women could go to be treated when needing surgical care and opened the Woman's Hospital in a private house in Madison avenue it was half a dozen women who with him founded this, the first institution of its kind in this country.

The total expenses the first year were about \$4,000. The operating expenses last year were more than \$100,000. This will give some idea of how the hospital has grown. Since taking possession of its new plant on Cathedral Parkway three years ago the hospital is more famous than ever.

Mrs. Thomas C. Doremus is always referred to as the woman who did most to finance the hospital at its inception and it is pointed out that two of her daughters are now included in the list of supervisors. Among the women now named as large donors to the hospital are Mrs. Russell Sage, who not long ago gave \$50,000 for a special purpose; Mrs. Frederic F. Thompson, who is vice-president of the board of governors as well as chairman of the ladies' assistant board; and Mrs. Morris K. Jesup, Mrs. George L. Cheney and Mrs. Brayton Ives, officers of the women's board, also give largely and are among the most generous in giving time to the hospital, which last year treated 356 patients free.

There are about sixty endowed beds, representing each a gift of \$5,000, and two-thirds of these were given by women who with few exceptions are classed with the pleasure-loving, fashionable class. Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. Jesup, besides endowing beds, belong to the Century Fund, which pledges to pay a proportionate share of any deficit in the yearly amount needed for current expenses; they also give frequent large donations of cash for special purposes, and all sorts of delicacies and luxuries, including flowers, to brighten up things for ward patients. Besides this there is the Jesup Fund of \$151,000, to be used as far as necessary to help women who cannot pay for themselves.

The training school for nurses at Bellevue Hospital stands first perhaps in the charities for which Mrs. William Church Osborn is sponsor. It was the first to be started in New York, Mrs. William Henry Osborn supplying the money to equip a building where young women could be taught how to care for the sick. That was

Fresh air work is now among the most popular benevolences of wealthy women, a few of whom finance individually certain cottages and schemes for giving a country vacation to children or grown-ups, as they prefer.

Mrs. Henry A. Alexander is among these. Her particular field is in connection with the Speedwell Fresh Air Society, which gives outings to children in the neighborhood of Morristown, N. J., boarding them on farms and in the cottages of private residents, so that they may have the benefit of a good home influence for a couple of weeks or a month or longer in hot weather. Just how many poor children Mrs. Alexander pays for every summer it is not easy to say. She pays for so many that

fifteen years. For the latter reason no one really knows how large her contributions to that institution have been and are. Oftentimes when a deficit occurs or money is needed to build a new laboratory or a wing or something like that, the money materializes "from an anonymous giver," the treasurer says. The other day half a million was contributed anonymously to build a needed extension for the use of the domestic science students. It is suspected that Miss Dodge gave the money, but no one is willing to offend the modest treasurer by saying so openly.

At Teachers College, to quote one of the faculty, Miss Dodge is looked on as a fairy godmother, and none of the trustees is so well known to the pupils as she is.



MRS. ARTHUR M. DODGE.

whenever fresh air work is spoken of in charitable circles immediately Mrs. Alexander is cited as an example of what one fashionable woman may accomplish provided she is prepared to sacrifice a good slice of her time as well as money to others.

Mrs. Robert Hoe is another who makes a specialty of fresh air work, supporting unaided a summer cottage at Sea Cliff with accommodations for twenty persons. To this place Mrs. Hoe sends mothers and their children or any one in whom she is interested for a stay of any length she may decide. There is no board of managers to consult about getting admission to this cottage. Mrs. Hoe is the only board. It is she alone who pays every bill incurred from beginning to end of the season and her word is final on every point.

Mrs. Benjamin Welles is the prime organizer of the Belknap Summer Home for Children at Far Rockaway, personally spending long hours in supervising its equipment and planning for a force of workers who will most happily carry out the plan of the charity.

Robinson House at Tenafly, N. J., opened in 1893 to give poor children a chance at country life in the summer, is spoken of as Mrs. J. Hill Browning's pet charity, to which she gives lavishly of time, money and personal service.

The Country Home for Convalescent Babies at Sea Cliff owes much of its prosperity and the babies owe most of the good times they have for periods ranging from one week to three months to a trio of wealthy women—Mrs. E. H. Harriman, Mrs. Henry Parish and Mrs. Sidney Dillon Ripley.

Robins Nest at Tarrytown has been for many years financed by Miss Helen Gould, whose interest in fresh air work for children has placed her name on the contributors' list of many similar charities, although the benefactions which have made Miss Gould's name known all over the world have to do more with building homes and libraries for sailors, establishing Young Men's Christian Association branches in out of the way places and helping churches and chapels to pay their ministers and send out missionaries.

The Working Girls Vacation Society,

is cleared out of the way does Mrs. Speyer give up. In organizing the woman's auxiliary of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Mrs. Speyer enlisted the interest of many of her friends, and from the start she financed the scheme as far as necessary. To-day the society is a strong body doing good work in aid of dumb animals, the horse in particular. A year after its inception Mrs. Speyer proposed to the astonished members to hold a work horse parade on the next Memorial Day, at which money prizes and medals would be awarded to the drivers whose teams showed the best evidences of good care. The members were dubious at first. How could it be worked up, they asked. Would the male public take kindly to the scheme and cooperate with Mrs. Speyer's kindly intention?

It did seem problematical to every one but the projector, Mrs. Speyer went ahead and her horse parade came off as scheduled in 1907 and was a great success. That of 1908 was a greater success. In all probability that of 1909 will outdo the others. Needless to say the cost of a parade of this sort is large, and as the auxiliary's funds cannot be applied to such an object Mrs. Speyer pays all the bills herself.

These are only a few of the benevolences by which New York's wealthy women show that they are a long way from being entirely taken up with their own amusement. Mrs. Frederick Vanderbilt operates a home for working girls, the Anthony in East Sixteenth street, almost entirely at her own expense. Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt, as has been said, is furnishing \$1,000,000 to put up model tenements. Mrs. Russell Sage is projecting a block of model tenements in The Bronx besides all the other philanthropic enterprises in which she is engaged.

Miss Leary gave a chapel to Bellevue Hospital some years ago, which she keeps in repair, devoting many hours during Lent to a sewing class which makes small garments to be given to the poor patients of Bellevue. Besides this Miss Leary operates a kindergarten and school for small girls in the Italian quarter below Houston street—and has opened an institute in Charlott street for the benefit of Catholic young men and women.

Mrs. Clarence Mackay has shown an interest in educational plans connected with the public schools in the neighborhood of her summer home which have given her a good deal more work to do than writing checks merely—and she is notably generous with checks. She also finds time to visit periodically the House of the Holy Comforter for incurables on the upper West Side of Manhattan and arrange teas and parties of various kinds for the pleasure of the inmates. In connection with the Society for Improving the Condition of the Poor is a committee room where once a week a group of women meet to confer with the superintendent of relief. The names of the members of that group would astonish the critics who are inclined to divorce self-sacrifice and a disposition to think hard along practical lines from the pleasure loving women of society who far outnumber every day. They include Mrs. Henry Redmond, who at Newport as well as here is turning her attention to stamping out tuberculosis; the Comtesse de Langier-Villars; Mrs. John Grosvenor; Mrs. Henry Phipps; Mrs. R. Fulton;

Two of the most interesting benevolent



MRS. RUSSELL SAGE.



THE WOMAN'S HOSPITAL.

houses and social entertainments are talked of on two continents. There are wealthy women who when asked to help a charity make out a check for their secretary to mail and let it go at that; but there are many more who give in addition to the check several hours every week to getting into personal touch with the beneficiaries of the check and to devising plans and schemes to help them along.

This is what the managers of most of the charitable institutions of this city say, and they add that women who are the most expert at planning brilliant private entertainments for the amusement of their friends are usually the women to be relied on for suggesting plans to fill empty coffers and what is more to help to carry out these plans. Naturally critics are more likely to hear about the brilliant private entertainments than about the charitable work.

In checking off some of the charities meant, indeed to the personal efforts of New York women day nurseries, hospitals and fresh air homes stand highest in the list. Let the first of these be:

Undoubtedly the development of day nurseries in New York and all over the United States owes more to Mrs. Arthur M. Dodge than to any other one person. Mrs. Dodge is the most conspicuous socially. She is known to that part of the public interested in social affairs as the organizer of the Junior Cottolins, the first and perhaps the most exclusive of the subscription dinners held during the winter for the benefit of charities. In the more prosaic rôle of promotor of day nurseries for poor youngsters Mrs. Dodge is less known.

For years Mrs. Dodge's house at the corner of Thirty-fourth street and Park avenue, afterward the headquarters of the Princeton Club, was noted for its many

travelled in the interests of day nurseries from the Atlantic to the Pacific, her enthusiasm inspiring the cooperation of many of her friends. Judging from what she has already accomplished it is safe to say that before long the eight additional day nurseries urgently needed in as many crowded districts of Manhattan will be founded. In addition to all this Mrs. Dodge finds time to act as president for the Public Education Association and as president of the Needlework Guild, which makes garments for charitable institutions.

Scanning the lists of the women patrons of some of the city hospitals is like reading a page from the Social Register, and investigation shows that 50 per cent. of these visit the hospitals regularly, planning treats of various kinds from time to time to give pleasure to the patients. It is not pleasant in fact to imagine what would be the result in some cases were the board of women supervisors to be dropped.

Take the Babies Hospital for instance, among the most popular with women, which is lucky enough to have a board of woman managers, most of whom are identified with the class which neither toils nor spins. With few exceptions these managers write a good sized check yearly in behalf of the institution and they do more than that. Personally they plan all sorts of things to make life more cheerful to the 1,100 and more sick babies of 3 years and under who spend months often at the hospital and some of whom can't pay one cent for the privilege but who can say, like the little boy of whom Stevenson wrote:

When I was sick and lay dead I had two pillows at my head, And all my toys beside my bed, To keep me happy all the day. And sometimes for an hour or so



REGULARS AT THE JEWELL DAY NURSERY.

auditing and supplies. Mrs. Alexander, who was Miss Crocker of California and ranks easily among the wealthiest women in New York, is president of the women's board of supervisors and worker in chief, as a hospital attaché put it, on any and every committee where she can be of use. She has endowed beds in perpetuity and endowed from time to time one or two yearly beds. If an ice cream and cake table seems to be in order Mrs. Alexander will stand for it; such prosaic items as barrels of apples and of potatoes she takes the liveliest interest in if approached on the subject, and she sees that the hospital gets them on time. Toys, dolls, books, games, candy are

thirty-five years ago, and there were less than a dozen pupils at the opening. Today the school occupies an imposing stone building opposite Bellevue Hospital and includes 139 pupils.

Mrs. W. E. Osborn took up the work at the death of her mother-in-law and is now president of the board of managers and the most generous contributor to the support of the institution, which is the largest of its sort in this city, although she herself is careful to keep the amount of her contributions secret. Few of her associates in the social world are aware how often she visits the training school or know how many hours she gives to planning for its success.

which is fresh air work on a large scale, was for many years, while it was growing up, the particular charge of Miss Gracie Dodge, who was the original projector. Many thousands of dollars given by Miss Dodge and her family have gone to equipping cottages where girls with little spare cash to spend on a summer vacation may have an outing at a nominal figure or at no charge at all.

This, however, is only one of the many charities to which Miss Dodge gives large sums of money and almost all of her time. Perhaps one of the most notable of her benefactions is in connection with Teachers College, of which she was one of the founders and has been the treasurer for

movements now operated in New York were started by Mrs. James Speyer. They are the People's Symphony Concerts and the Woman's Auxiliary of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

About nine years ago Mrs. Speyer, in the interests of the poor children of the East Side, helped to organize a music school in the University Settlement Building in Livingston street, where little music hungry Poles, Russians and Italians might get a half hour music lesson on violin or piano for a dime. That was the beginning of a movement which has placed many more such opportunities at the disposal of poor children of the tenements.

Mrs. Speyer's later project, launched less than two years ago, is to give that part of the public not able to pay a large price for a seat the privilege of hearing the highest class instrumental music by paying from 10 to 50 cents. Four or five concerts will continue to be given every winter and all the extra expenses will be paid by Mrs. Speyer.

A good many persons are aware that Mrs. Speyer is an opera box owner and one of the constant attendants at grand opera performances, also that she is included in the company of women whose clothes and jewels are spoken of as representing a climax of cost and elegance; but their knowledge of her stops about there. They do not suspect that when she decides to put through a philanthropic plan, and Mrs. Speyer has put through a good many such in the last ten years, few women, rich or poor, can equal her in executive ability and in enthusiasm. At need Mrs. Speyer will spend hour after hour arranging more or less tiresome details at which the average woman would balk. Not until every difficulty

ting, Mrs. Schuyler Warren, Mrs. John Borland and a dozen more equally rich, and fashionable, who consult seriously on the cases laid before them and sift out those they prefer to have acted on immediately, spending sometimes two hours at a sitting for the benefit of the poor. Their decisions, it is said, are always found to be intelligent and practicable.

That's the best part of it.

NORTH CAROLINA WILD DOGS.

Great Pack of Them on State Lands Will Attack People and Cattle.

Raleigh correspondence Forest and Stream. For thirty years there have been wild dogs in a great tract of woods known as the Grimes lands, west of Raleigh, part of which recently bought by the State embraces some 1,300 acres. These dogs twenty years ago attacked a herd of milk cattle and the late day of February, as the dogs having rages.

From time to time the wild dogs have been shot, but they cannot be exterminated. On two occasions they have attacked people passing through the woods and had to be beaten off. On the last day of February, which marked the close of the hunting season, with a number of boys I was rabbit hunting in these woods. A rabbit was jumped and made a wide sweep in his run.

Most of us stood on the watch for him to "return to his bed," as the dogmen say, and presently the music of the dogs bringing him back was heard in the distance. The rabbit was seen coming down a hill where the trees stood rather wide apart, and suddenly two very large dogs, mottled in color and looking remarkably like hyenas, dashed at him. At this instant a colored man came up with his gun and rushed at the dogs, which fled, leaving the rabbit kicking, but bringing on the rump the deep marks of the dogs' fangs. The dogs had appeared like ghosts and they were the same same many times. It was a remarkable incident. When the pack arrived the owner was holding up the rabbit. The dogs appeared to take no notice of the tracks of the wild dogs.