

ROOSEVELT CHEERS CRIPPLED CHILDREN

Visits Little Sufferers at Dedication of New York Orthopaedic Hospital.

SHAKES EACH BY THE HAND

Colonel Calls the Institution a Good Charity Because of Its Human Touch.

Colonel Theodore Roosevelt forgot for a few moments yesterday afternoon his worry over the various policies this country might be adopting in its foreign and domestic relations, and shed a little of his personal magnetism and enthusiasm over the lives of threescore and more crippled children at the New York Orthopaedic Dispensary and Hospital.

It was the formal dedication of the hospital of its new \$850,000 home at 420 East Fifty-ninth Street, and the Colonel had come to make a brief address, because, as he said, his father, Theodore Roosevelt, had been one of the founders of the institution and its first Treasurer. After his speech, and after Bishop Greer had offered the dedication prayer and Dr. Russell A. Hibbs, Superintendent of the hospital, had told of the work the institution was doing, Colonel Roosevelt insisted that his sister, Mrs. Douglas Robinson, who is on the Board of Supervisors, take him through the wards of the building.

They went downstairs to the ward for little girls, a big, airy room, whose wide windows command a splendid view of the Queensboro Bridge and the East River. Here, on seven small white beds, lay seven small cripples whom the surgeons were striving with might and main to win back to health.

Visits Girls' Ward.

Seven small, wan faces lighted up with pleasure involuntarily as the little patients saw the crowd of visitors whose own faces, every one of them, expressed the deep sympathy which those still figures on the beds inspired.

Colonel Roosevelt stood for a moment at the doors of the ward, smiling at the inmates, and then walked slowly by each bed, stopping to inquire of the occupant who she was, and wishing her a speedy recovery. The children were most of them overcome by shyness, and curled down as far as they could among the white covers of their beds, but all shook hands gravely with their visitor and watched him with brightened eyes as he visited each in turn.

One little girl solemnly extended the hand of her doll, which the Colonel took into his own. Another showed him a pair of woolly lambs which she had been cuddling, and another, unconsciously added a touch of humor to the scene by insisting that Colonel Roosevelt admire a most Democratic-looking donkey with which she was playing, so far as her limbs, helpless through paralysis, might let her.

In his speech to the visitors, who literally packed the reception room and the halls outside, Colonel Roosevelt emphasized the need of the hospital's keeping the human touch even in the work of the trained, and necessarily cold, surgeon.

"This institution is the most satisfactory form of charity," he declared. "So long as you never allow it to become institutionalized, you will never have to use a 'but' or an 'if' in speaking of it. If you ever think that bricks and mortar are enough, so that surgeons and nurses, laymen and laywomen, are content to sit by and watch the machinery, then you will find that abuses are creeping in. Keep alive the sympathy of the individual, and you can make this or any other institution worth while.

"It has been successful so far," he continued, "because its doctors and supervisors have avoided those twin perils of philanthropy, hardness of heart and softness of head. Of the two, I'm not sure which is the worst, the latter is perhaps the more amiable, but it is the characteristic of a fool, and no fool can do anything or make anything which will count in this world."

Glad to Speak Louder.

The crowded halls made hearing a problem, and more than once during the Colonel's speech he was interrupted by cries from without of "Speak louder, please, won't you, Colonel?" As these calls grew insistent Colonel Roosevelt smiled and raised his voice.

"Thank you," he said. "I feel distinctly flattered. That is the first time in my life I have ever heard any one request me to talk louder."

Colonel Roosevelt was followed by Dr. Russell A. Hibbs, who emphasized the need of such an institution, and showed by figures its growth in the last ten years.

"General surgery has failed to give relief to the patient," he said, "who suffers from chronic deforming diseases, and by that failure has done much to convince the patients themselves and their friends that they are really incurable. They are not incurable, and orthopaedic surgery is giving abundant proof of that fact. We must no longer be bored by the chronically sick; we must stop sending them to some one else. We must give them hope."

Some of those present were Mrs. John Hobart Warren, Mrs. William D. Sloane, Mrs. A. Murray Young, Mrs. Edward T. H. Talmage, Mrs. Henry M. Tilford, Miss Frelinghuysen, Mrs. M. Dwight Ccllier, Mrs. Charles M. Dickey, Mrs. Charles B. Alexander, Mrs. Walter Jennings, Mrs. Douglas Robinson, and Mrs. R. Fulton Cutting. Eugene Delano, President of the Board of Trustees of the hospital, presided.