

Snapshots from The Seashore House

By LELIA MARY HOLT

Last night I sat on the piazza determined, if possible, to catch the point of view of the children. Before us stretched a beautiful panorama. On either side were rows and rows of beds uniform in size and color. Except for a touch of darkest Africa here and there the line of copper colored children was unbroken. So peaceful and calm was the atmosphere except for the grinding of Old Ocean that one could scarcely realize the tragedies concealed beneath the clean white coverlets. Beyond the railing I caught the flower boxes with their tomato red geraniums enhanced by an abundance of waxy leafed ivy. In the court below there was the platform set like a Greek stage in a natural amphitheatre where the comedies of the Kiddy Karnival and the Circus had been enacted, and where the tragi-comedies of the Beach Party and numerous band concerts had been rehearsed. Johnnie's father was doling out pennies on the steps below before giving a last farewell embrace, while Dicky's father was mounting the steps carrying a huge paper bag bursting with oranges and bananas for Ward Four. The galleries, in reality the cottages, were occupied by the Cottage Mothers, too tired and too relaxed to take in the scene, as they lolled in their rockers with eyes closed. The two red teeter-totters, the gifts of a well-to-do friend, whizzed round and round, balancing a group of merry children and inviting others to indulge, too, in free rides. On the other side the eight new swings donated by the Junior Auxiliary of the Children's Seashore House Fund Club, glided silently up and down, striving to out distance each other as they gained momentum. Now and then one caught the song,

"Now like a bird as we dip so high,
Almost so far that we tip the sky,
Gayly singing—"

On the 'Walk there was a woman in white almost obscured by a huge black umbrella doing double duty against the spray and sun, and a pair of cooing turtle doves oblivious of anything but each other. A freckle-faced boy imbued with utilitarian ideals was hunting checkers in the sands beneath the porch for the boys in Ward Three. Close by was Tommy hoisting sand in a sand digger, oblivious of his clumsy jacket worn to guard him from an otherwise inevitable hunchback and dwarfing.

One couldn't but question the workings of their childish minds as the bed-patients lay in their immaculate beds. Was there nothing to reveal their attitude of mind? Are their faces always cheerful? Are they too honest to conceal emotions? Do they cherish hopes for the future, castles to be built by brain not brawn? Nothing to break the soliloquy—nothing until unmindful of their absence, I wake from my reverie and am reassured by the vigor of their evening song.

"Now the day is over,
Night is drawing nigh,
Shadows of the evening,
Steal across the sky;
Grant to little children
Visions bright of Thee;
Guard the sailors tossing
On the deep, blue sea."

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at a supper party in honor of the engagement of Florence Emily Fisher.

Audrey Parry gave a delightful party Friday evening. Among the young people present were Bob McCracken, Gordon Yates, C. Ocklander, Al Westney, Bobby Baker, Dick Bew, Marion Moore, Ruth Keiffer, Ellen Speiler, Audrey Parry, and Florence Mason.

Madeline Beyer has returned from a delightful tour of the West. Among places visited were California and the Canadian Rockies.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Fairburn of 101 South Jackson Avenue are planning a trip to the Delaware Water Gap.

Natalie Humphreys and Marie Pettit were recent visitors in Washington.

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