

## CHILDREN'S HOME. OUTING IN THE HILLS.

### State Governor Present.

The beauty of the hills, a bright spring afternoon, and a warm sympathy for the children drew something like two thousand people to the Parkerville Children's Home on Saturday. There they saw boys and girls cheerful and happy in their eleven little cottages, growing up together like ordinary boys and girls do in their own homes, surrounded by the love and care of the sisters, who to them are mother and father in one. There was a true atmosphere of home about it all. The children romped around strong and healthy. One little fellow with brown eyes and high colour, a sturdy lad of five, was a miserable fragment of a baby, of whom all despaired when first he was brought there. Then there was a whole family of seven little children, including five girls, sweet and charming, brought into the home only a few weeks ago because mother had died and father was left to carry on as best he could. All told there are about 140 boys and girls in the Home.

But the special occasion was the opening of the new isolation ward, the solemn dedication of the beautiful new sanctuary of the little church in the grounds of the home, and a bazaar and sale of work with its attendant gay and festive colouring. To show their strong sympathy for the children, the State Governor and the Hon. Lady Newdegate had come right through from Bunbury that day, and cheerily and brightly moved among the crowds.

There are ten beds in the well-built wooden isolation ward, and the whole building and its complete furnishings have been provided by friends. "Ashdown Isolation Cottage" it is named, in memory of Sister Jane, one of the devoted Englishwomen who came out and founded the home twenty years ago, laboured for the children, and passed on. The Venerable Dr. Riley offered a prayer of dedication in which he prayed for the sisters of the Church and their schools, and those who had done them good, and any who might have done them harm. He asked God, for the sake of the Great Physician, that the efforts of those who nursed in that cottage might be blessed and that the children brought there might be restored to health and happiness. In asking his Excellency to open the building, his Grace said that he thought most of those present remembered Sister Jane and he did not think a more fitting memorial to her could be raised. A good deal of the funds for the ward, he said, had been got by Miss Ruth Lefroy, who had charge of the sick children in the home. He mentioned the names of various prominent helpers in the building fund.

"These kindly ladies are doing a very great work, which is of especial value in

great work, which is of especial value in a young country like this," said his Excellency. "And these young children are receiving a splendid start in their lives before they go out into the world to make their way. Many young men from this home went out to the war and did their duty manfully. It is gratifying to find by the large attendance here how widespread is the interest in this Home. I hope this ward will prove a great blessing to those who make use of it."

Sir Francis having turned the key in the door of the ward, cheers were given for him and the Hon. Lady Newdegate and they were thanked for their kindness in being present.

Through a cathedral-like avenue of trees the people then walked to the church, where an impressive service was held, and the Archbishop dedicated the new sanctuary to the glory of God and the memory of Sister Jane, and six young men from the home who fell in the war and who had left behind them money which made possible the extension and beautification of the building.

The incidents in a full and interesting afternoon were not complete until the visitors had seen an interesting performance of "Cinderella" by the little ones, who did their work very encouragingly. Then they were free to return to town, carrying away with them a deep impression of the happy home life the children of Parkerville enjoy.

Among those who assisted in the fete were the people of the Anglican Churches at Subiaco and Claremont, and the Subiaco Brass Band.