"The Board of Guardians also established a convalescent camp for children at Woodvale, Southport. ..... In the year 1914 the nursing staff numbered approximately 78, including 41 student nurses, who entered during the months of October/ November."(24)

This souvenir brochure does not appear to be "a ratification if not the glorification of the present". Rather it is an objective detailed statement of the work achieved by Alder Hey Children's Hospital. "In the early years", Mason argues, "the first essential was relief to the sick poor. We are told of disease and poverty which, to our present day students, can only be visualised. But the landmark in the treatment of the sick children is now here for the present generations to see and receive its benefits, and one must indeed be grateful to all those who over the years have had the vision to work for and achieve so many benefits for the sick child."(25)

One who, together with the surgeon Mr Alfred Stephens in 1851 and Mr Harrison Cleaver in 1906, was also concerned about the conditions of the sick poor in Liverpool was William Rathbone (1819-1902), a ship owner who "exemplified the wealth of the Liverpool merchants".(26) William Rathbone was of Quaker stock and came from a family with radical political views and a history of philanthropy. He employed a Mrs Robinson from St Thomas' Hospital to nurse his wife in the final stages of her life, and realised that good nursing really did alleviate suffering.

"Having felt deeply grateful for the comfort which a good nurse had been to my wife, and thinking what intense misery must be felt in the houses of the poor from the want of such care, it occurred to me to engage Mrs Robinson, her nurse, to go into one of the poorest districts of Liverpool and try, in nursing the poor, to relieve suffering and to teach them the rules of health and comfort. I furnished her with the medical comforts necessary, but after a month's experience she came to me crying and saying that she could not bear any longer the misery she saw. I asked her to continue the work to the end of her engagement with me (which was three months), and at the end of that time she came back saying that the amount of misery she could relieve was so satisfactory that nothing would induce her to go back into private nursing, if I were willing to continue the work."(27)

Not only did William Rathbone found a District Nursing Association in Liverpool, he helped pioneer workhouse nursing reform.

"Successful efforts have been made in many directions to improve the nursing of the sick, and the workhouses must soon be the object of similar endeavours. Those poor sufferers whose disease is protracted and hopeless are refused admission into ordinary hospitals, and must come to the workhouses, and the mere duration of the illnesses in such cases is sufficient to reduce to poverty the most industrious, careful and temperate - men who, while they could work, paid regularly their