

Jim Dillon, aged 10 of Moree, has become the "darling of the ward" at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children, Sydney.

One nurse told a *Daily Telegraph* reporter: "All he has to do is hand out one of those flashing smiles with his brightly shining dark eyes and the girls just about melt before him."

Jim was admitted to the hospital last August with a serious spinal injury from a .22 bullet.

The bullet entered his neck and damaged the spinal cord, in which lie many of the nerve centres that control movement.

A group of nerves controlling Jim's breathing muscles were damaged, and the injury almost paralysed him.

For more than six weeks he was able to breathe only with the aid of a tube in his throat.

Physiotherapists massaged his chest to "re-educate" his breathing muscles, and he has now regained the use of his arms and hands.

He is fit enough to attend the hospital school every day, so that his education is not being neglected.

Jim is pictured at the hospital on our front cover.

LITTLE PATIENT ON THE MEND

HOCKEY ENTHUSIASTS

Katie Green and Christine Clayton are keen and clever, hockey enthusiasts. Here they are pictured with team mates in the Cootamundra hockey team which defeated Young recently in a Robinson Cup match. Katie is kneeling at the left, and Christine at the right.

Cootamundra Daily Herald photo

