

Nursing Echoes.

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CHRISTMAS has come and gone, and has been kept in our hospitals in accordance with the best traditions of former years. Glistening holly, with gleaming berries, rarer mistletoe, and an abundance of appropriate mottoes, have brought Christmas to the patients who have been obliged to spend their Christmas in hospital; and not only holly and mistletoe, but choice hot-house flowers have been on view in the wards, for, in spite of the fog, Sisters and nurses were at Covent Garden in the early hours of Christmas Eve, and returned triumphant laden with spoils, though even their inroads made no appreciable effect upon the stacks of flowers and plants which were offered for sale in that wonderful market.

EARLY on Christmas morning the sound of familiar carols floated into the wards, as white-capped nurses went the round of the hospital before coming on duty. And what piles of woollies, warm cardigans, cosies, shawls and other useful gifts, were dispensed later. Literally tons have filtered through the hands of hospital nurses to the homes of the poor. Then later in the day what visions of delight there were for the children, in the lighted Christmas tree, which made a veritable fairyland of the ward. Never had Santa Claus remembered the desire of childish hearts so well before. Hundreds of tired, contented, supremely happy little people laid their sleepy heads on their pillows that night hugging the gifts which Father Christmas had brought them, while not a few of their elders, with memories of past Christmases behind them, not always spent in so happy and innocent a manner, were thankful for the shelter of the hospital ward which provided so much gaiety and without any regrets in the future.

LASTLY, our friend the medical student must not be forgotten, for he contributed not a little to the universal pleasure, and his songs added much to the fun.

AMONG the many societies which are in danger of extinction from want of support during this year of stress and difficulty there is one which

has a special claim on the sympathy of Londoners. It is but two years ago since the establishment of the London School Nurses' Society, with the sanction of the London School Board; but the results of these two years are amply sufficient to show what a boon the visits of those nurses are to the children in the poorest localities. Each nurse employed has had about ten schools under her care, each of which she visits twice weekly. The teachers heartily welcome the nurse and send the children out in twos and threes to be attended to. Mothers in well-to-do homes know what miseries are caused by gathered and cut fingers, boils, burns, broken chillblains, sore eyes, etc., and how easily these may develop into worse ills. What suffering, then, must be borne by children in squalid homes where no heed is paid to such small matters! All these and many other ailments are treated by the visiting school nurse at the outset, and where there are symptoms of more serious complaints the doctor is communicated with, thus decreasing the chances of infection, and saving many lives by taking the disease in time. The nurses employed must always have had one or two years' training at a certified hospital, and Queen's nurses are preferred when they can be obtained. The Queen Victoria Jubilee Nursing Institute has inspected the work of the nurses and has pronounced it to be satisfactory. The Society has had but an annual income of £250 to work with, and with that it has employed five nurses. With the increasing appeals from teachers and school Inspectors for visits to fresh schools by the nurses, it was hoped to increase the income of the Society to £500, and the number of nurses to eight. Instead of this, the Society finds itself in debt, and the chairman, Mr. Lyulph Stanley, and the Committee are obliged to consider the advisability of relinquishing its work altogether. An earnest appeal on its behalf to those who think the health of the rising generation in London is a matter which concerns the country, has been issued. Perhaps some friends of the movement may be willing to organise entertainments on its behalf, to raise the necessary funds for the coming year. Subscriptions and donations may be sent to the hon. treasurer, W. C. Bridgman, Esq., 13, Mansfield Street, W.

WE have received a courteous letter from Miss R. C. Rowden, the Secretary of the new Dublin Nurses' Club, thanking the Editor of this journal for interest expressed in the inauguration of this excellent scheme, in which she informs us that:— "The Club Rooms have been most comfortably and handsomely furnished by the D.B.C. (Dublin Bread Co.), who are our landlords. They comprise Conversation and Writing Rooms,

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