

NURSING ECHOES.

It is not often that a busy Matron in response to a tap at her sitting-room door, opens it to find two Queens on the mat. But this is what happened to Miss Swain, of the West Norfolk and Lynn Hospital last week. The Matron was busy with Sister Harris checking accounts, and Queen Alexandra and Queen Amelie had arrived by motor without announcement, bringing with them gifts for the patients. Miss Swain (with "Taff," her Welsh terrier, following the royal party) conducted the Queens through several of the wards, where gifts were bestowed and kind words spoken; and Queen Alexandra before leaving said she thought all the patients looked exceedingly happy.

Since the visit six well-padded, comfortable chairs have been sent by Queen Alexandra for the use of the patients in the wards—a gift of the greatest practical use for the convalescent.

One of the most delightful hospital entertainments at this season is the one given by the Resident and Nursing Staff at Charing Cross Hospital, where there is always a kindly welcome from the Matron, Miss M. Heather-Bigg, and where the Annual Concert in the Great Hall is given by an exceptionally talented number of artistes. This year some half dozen of the artistes appeared by permission of the Coliseum, and the whole programme was rendered with such distinction, humour, and verve that it is a most difficult task to single out any of those who contributed to so enjoyable an evening for special mention. The clever pianologues of Mr. Harold Montague, who appeared by permission of Messrs. Maskelyne and Devant, the dancing of Miss Marjory Stevens, and the humour of Mr. Ben Osborne were specially appreciated. Perhaps no hospital has so many friends amongst those whose talents are devoted to providing this great metropolis with its amusements and recreations, and they used their gifts in the most generous manner possible for its benefit. The evening concluded delightfully with tea and coffee and other good things in a section of the out-patient department, beautifully decorated with crimson japonica.

Nothing could have been more charming than the Christmas party at the Alexandra Hospital for Children with Hip Disease, Queen Square, Bloomsbury, last week, and one and

all combined to make the afternoon a pleasant one, beginning with the polite porter, who took one's wraps at the door and introduced one to a fairyland of beauty. In the square entrance hall deft-handed and smiling maids offered tea and coffee and toothsome cakes to the arriving visitors, and here also the Lady Superintendent, Miss E. M. Fitch, welcomed the guests. They then passed on up the stairs, each support of which was encased in crimson and twined with greenery with excellent effect, and arrived at the first ward overlooking Queen Square, the prevailing colour of which was crimson, sprays of crimson japonica being used almost exclusively in its decoration. Here children—bright eyed and keen, missing no joke, and flinging ready answers back—were enjoying to the full a clever conjuring demonstration. The ward above was as lovely as this one, but its colour scheme was pale pink, pink peach blossoms converting it into a bower of beauty. Here also tea was served, and there was a busy time in the kitchen, which serves both this ward and the smaller one at the back. Chrysanthemums, palms, mimosa, and Japanese sunshades were also utilised in the attractive decorations. All this hospitality was provided out of a special fund contributed for the purpose, and not from the funds of the hospital.

An interesting feature of the hospital is the daily instruction, given by fully qualified teachers appointed by the London County Council. The younger children are taught on the Kindergarten system. As they remain in the hospital for so long, and their education has often been neglected on account of their being unable to attend an ordinary school, this is of great benefit to them.

Echoes of a happy Christmas in hospital keep coming in. At St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, everyone appears to have had a delightful time. At midday the great event of the day took place, when the Dean of Rochester presided in every ward and said grace before the generous dinner was enjoyed. The wards were like fairyland, with spring flowers and fairy lights. Before the wards were closed the Matron, Miss Pote-Hunt, and the Chaplain visited every ward when the Doxology was sung.

On the 30th the annual Christmas Entertainment was held. Tea was served in the Board Room, which was charmingly decorated in autumn tints—brown, green, and yellow.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)