

"He has been wounded in the trenches, but is just now driving an ambulance.

"We put the tree by the side of the stage, and everybody was delighted with it.

"In the evening, as the shadows were falling, the tree was lighted up with electricity, and we felt very proud of it indeed.

"From the very top branch we had hung the French, English, and American flags, and they seemed to smile on that room crowded with poilus on the small group of orphan children, many of them little refugees of the war, who had been allowed to come in to receive a bag of sweets from the tree, and on the khaki-clad Americans who were a long way from home, and who came down to try to forget it was the first Christmas Day for many of them that they had spent in a foreign country amongst strangers.

"After the distribution was finished, the Méd. Chef. made a speech. He said that everybody was away from home, but that we had tried to bring the fireside and family life nearer to the men, and to make them forget for a little while the miseries of the war. He called on the men to give a good clap for England, and he followed by asking for another for America.

"The response was deafening.

"As he sat down, an American sprang up, and called: 'Three cheers for France,' and the hip-hip-hurrah of those Americans made my banners flutter.

"The French told me they had never heard anything like it; it quite surprised them, and they were naturally immensely gratified.

"The General came to the concert, and admired the tree so much he asked for some of the decorations for his little girl.

"The great *artiste* who gave the performance sent for me and asked very humbly that I would send something for his three little girls from the tree. He said they would prize it so, and give him great pleasure. He also asked me to put in a note and say that their papa had amused the wounded on Christmas Day. I had a nice little letter from the children yesterday.

"Thus the war separates, and yet brings us all together. A common knowledge of suffering makes our hearts very warm towards each other, and gives us understanding as nothing else could.

"Convention seems to have passed away, and for the moment we accept things as we find them. Some of the money for the Christmas tree came from Miss Haynes, the kind lady who is such a friend to my wounded. She lives in London, and I got to know her through the R.N.S. And some of the money came from a little women's meeting in my own church in Yorkshire. They send me money every Christmas, and I appreciate it so much, because I know it is the widow's mite and means sacrifice, for these are working women."

The Americans are coming forward in France in the most helpful way. Their generosity is colossal. Mr. John D. Rockefeller has sent a cheque for £1,000,000 to the Rockefeller Foundation to meet the increasing expenditure for war work.

OUR ROLL OF HONOUR.

Members of the nursing profession and the allied services, constantly brave the perils of the high seas, in order to bring help and relief to the sick and wounded, and it is fitting that the names of those who lose their lives in this endeavour should be inscribed in a Roll of Honour. We greatly regret to record the death of Miss Winifred Maud Brown and Miss Catherine Ball, both V.A.D.s whose homes are in Nottingham, who were drowned at sea on December 31st. Another V.A.D., Miss Una Duncanson, of Maidstone, was also drowned by the sinking of a ship on her way to Egypt in the Mediterranean. Miss Doris Carpenter, another V.A.D. of the same town, was also on the ship, but, as her name has so far not appeared in any of the casualty lists, hopes are entertained that she may still be alive.

THE CANADIAN NURSES' REST HOME.

The Canadian Nurses' Rest Home, at 66, Ennismore Gardens, S.W., was formally opened on the afternoon of January 14th. The visitors were welcomed at the entrance of the spacious reception hall by Mrs. Charles Hall, the Directress, and Colonel Bryan.

The House, which has been generously lent furnished by Colonel and the Hon. Mrs. Gretton, is financed by the Canadian Red Cross and offers free hospitality to its future guests.

Colonel Bryan made an introductory speech, in which he announced that, owing to a bad chill, Her Royal Highness the Princess Patricia was unable to perform the opening ceremony as announced, and he read a letter conveying her great regret and promising an early visit of inspection on her convalescence. He said that Lady Purley, the wife of the Canadian High Commissioner, had kindly consented to fill the gap.

Lady Purley said she had visited all the Canadian hospitals and Clearing Stations in France, where the nurses worked with courage and cheerfulness. She hoped that sick Sisters would be restored to good health in the Home, and expressed a wish that a similar Home should be provided for Canadian nurses in good health passing through London.

Sir Edward Kemp, the Overseas Minister, said the Canadian nurses he had met were satisfied and happy to do their part and wished to continue to do so till the war ended. They were rendering the finest service a woman could do. He felt nothing was too good for the Canadian nurses. Canada would be glad to know there was such a Home where its nurses could recover.

After the opening ceremony the visitors were invited to inspect the house. The reception hall, drawing-room and dining-rooms are all spacious and lofty, and furnished with luxurious chairs and couches, and big fires blazed in the wide grates.

The bedrooms, which for the most part had two beds, separated by a screen, were the picture

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