

The Nursing Record

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NOTICE.—Should any difficulty arise in obtaining the "Nursing Record" through local news-agents, it is advisable to order it direct from the Publishers.

EDITORIAL.

At this festive season, when families and friends who seldom meet are once more drawn together; when pleasure and amusement is the order of the day, and happy gatherings are being held in tens of thousands of homes in our land; it is well to think of how our Nurses will be obliged to spend their Christmas Day, whether they are engaged in Hospital, or in private work. Comparatively few of our readers will be able to join their family circles. Most will be spending the time amongst strangers; and not only this, but it will be no day of rest to them, for wherever they are engaged, they will have the same daily duties to perform of ministrations to the sick; they will be surrounded by just as many depressing influences, in the varied forms of disease they are

nursing, as they are exposed to upon every other day. To many of the public, therefore, it might appear to be altogether out of place to wish Nurses the compliments of the season—to express the hope that under such adverse circumstances they might spend a happy day. Yet those who are intimately acquainted with the inner life of Hospitals, or with the nature of a Private Nurse's duties, are well aware that Christmas need not necessarily be to our readers a dull, cheerless, or unhappy time.

To be sure, festivity is altogether out of place in most Wards or sick-rooms. But the secret of happiness does not consist in noisy gaiety; its truest form is found by those who seek first to impart pleasure to others. And we are glad to know that it is now rare to meet a Nurse who is or has been engaged in Hospital work, who has not seen and practised the art of giving the patients some special enjoyment at this time of the year. For example, it is very picturesque to do, and very brightening and beneficial from its novelty to patients in Hospitals or Infirmaries, to decorate the Wards with holly and evergreens, and with appropriate and kindly mottoes.

It is a matter of common observation, how greatly many such patients are benefited by the preparations made, and by their results, in this direction. Then it is not difficult to provide for most Hospital cases some extra luxury in their diet; or it is easy for Nurses to organise amongst themselves a choir of Carol singers to visit in turn the various Wards, and give great pleasure at a very small cost of labour to themselves. There are many ways in which Nurses can, and do make their patients happy. Forgetting in the desire to do so their own separation from their kith and kin, their hard work, and their depressing surroundings, they will find, we believe, that they will be happy themselves. In the firm conviction that most of our readers will thus spend their day, we sincerely wish each and every one of them a very great happiness-giving and happiness-receiving Christmas.

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