

invariably shows to her fellow-workers and patients. Shortly after 9 a.m. on Christmas morning, when the patients had comfortably breakfasted and were "dressed up" for the occasion which comes only once a year, Miss Butler went the whole round of the Hospital distributing Christmas letters and cards. One of these was given to everyone in the house, and were kindly sent by the wife of one of the doctors attached to the Hospital. "Zoe," Miss Butler's fox-terrier, trotted round very importantly after her mistress, and wagged her tail with an amiable complacency. She was quite under the impression that the credit of the whole affair entirely belonged to her! At 12 p.m. the patients had an admirable turkey and plum pudding dinner. At 1 p.m. the Nurses, after their ministrations to the patients, were quite prepared for their own meal, at which Miss Butler joined them, the decoration of the table being her own labour of love. This year it was arranged most charmingly with yellow and green flowers, yellow and green art muslin, and yellow candles. At 4 p.m. the patients' tea, to which they are allowed to invite a friend. The occasion is marked by a generous allowance of cake. No restriction as to sex is made in the visitors, and it was very natural to find that masculinity preponderated—husbands, brothers, and perhaps even sweethearts, thoroughly enjoying the Hospital tea, followed by carols and music.

On the 27th an Entertainment took place for Nurses, household and patients. The largest ward had been turned out, beds taken away, and the room devoted to amusements. It is not customary to have any but very urgent operations before Christmas, so that the patients are mostly in a condition to thoroughly enjoy their festivities. A great many of the surgeons and physicians attached to the Hospital were present at the entertainment, which lasted from 4.30 to 7. After that, presents were distributed to Nurses, patients, and servants. All the decorations, festivities, and presents are provided by a Christmas Fund collected by the Matron through friends, and contributed to also by the lady visitors. Altogether Christmas in the Samaritan Hospital was very pleasantly spent.

#### CHELSEA HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN.

THE pleasant anticipations of the delights of Christmas were more than realised by the patients of this Hospital. The Ladies' Committee is always energetic in providing presents and entertainments for all connected with the Hospital, and this year has proved no exception to the general rule. The Committee gives a present at Christmas to each patient—this usually taking the form of useful clothing. Among the presents given this season were two serge dresses, some dolman cloaks and warm underclothing. In some cases presents of clothing for their children are given. The patients enjoyed their dinner of the regulation turkey and plum pudding, followed by a generous dessert. Each patient was also permitted to invite a friend to a "cake tea."

In the evening some of the Nurses, who had practised indefatigably for some time previously, sang Christmas carols on each floor, which were very much enjoyed by the patients.

The Nurses themselves enjoyed a late Christmas

dinner, the hour being 6.30, and this was indeed a treat, being such a change from ordinary Hospital life. The dinner for the Nurses, presided over by the Matron, Miss Heather Bigg, took place in the Board Room. After this a present was given to each Nurse from the Ladies' Committee.

The wards were prettily decorated, flowers being placed on each locker, and the gas lamps covered with beautiful "crinkled paper" shades, trimmed with poppies, chrysanthemums, and trailing creepers, designed by a French patient, and carried out by the other patients.

The Christmas Entertainment is fixed for January 11th, when music and other delights are provided after a substantial tea. A Christmas tree with presents for everyone is also provided.

At the Chelsea Hospital for Women Miss Heather Bigg inspires in her patients and Nurses a delightful spirit of friendliness towards one another. And it would be difficult to imagine a Hospital where Christmas could be more pleasantly spent.

#### SOHO SQUARE HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN.

THERE were no very special arrangements made at this Hospital for Christmas.

Presents were distributed among the patients by the Matron, and the festive season passed brightly and cheerfully.

Sister Agnes, of the Shaftesbury Ward, gave an entertainment of music and songs in her ward on the afternoon of the 28th, and similar festivities are to take place in some of the other wards, of which we hope to give an account next week.



#### Our Foreign Letter.

A GERMAN PIONEER.—II.

(Continued from page 457.)

AT this time Frederika was much distressed by the terrible state of Nursing conditions. She pondered whether it would not be possible to reform them in her own district by forming a Society of Protestant Sisters, in which girls should be trained for their work, centre round a Mother, be held *morally* responsible for the welfare of their patients and their own course of action, and yet lose none of the *personal* purity of their womanhood. This was at the time a subject to be well weighed. The horrors of some of the

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