

and the department is in an infinitely better state than it was.

Personally, when I wanted a Nurse my desire was that the patients' Nursing requirements should be provided for, but since then I have noticed that other things have developed. For instance, one finds that the tone of the patients is greatly improved; they have not been accustomed to the cleanliness and neatness in their room which the Nurse will gradually bring about. For a few days she calls daily, and at each visit there is a little improvement in the aspect of the room; the patient herself becomes a bit cleaner, and gets to know its comfort and also to appreciate the endeavours of the Nurse; after she has gone there is an effort to keep it up. I heard a patient say how greatly things had been changed by the visits of Nurse.

Then, another thing which one notices is, that it is really a method of education for the students themselves. In this department the House Physician is in charge, and under him the students do the work, and it is their first introduction to outside visiting. It is of great importance for them not to get into a slipshod manner of doing the work. They get the Nurse there, easy of access, always willing to come, and the result is that gradually the students get to know what Nursing is in a poor person's house, and what can be made of it: so when they go into practice for themselves they endeavour to get the same results.

Just a word as to the effects of the Nursing itself. Formerly there were no Nurses at all, and what was done was to get some friend or neighbour of the patient, who practically knew nothing about Nursing, and had, perhaps, come straight from some very unsuitable occupation to the patient, and would do what was thought necessary, very often doing more harm than good.

Now, of course, this is all changed, and a Nurse who understands the application of antiseptics being in attendance, it is found—not only in connection with our charity, but in every district—that the mortality, which was something more than fifteen per thousand, is now reduced so that we hardly ever lose a case. Everybody in attendance upon the patient is rigid as to the employment of antiseptics; no Nurse would ever dream of touching a patient till surgically clean, which is quite different from being ordinarily clean.

Another word as to the importance of the Christian character which is essential to Nurses connected with this Institution; there is no question that a Christian Nurse is necessarily more sympathetic, more conscientious, and more willing; those who know what it is to go into poor houses, know that to go into the worst slums requires a good deal more effort on the part of the Nurses than going to a comfortable home. From many points of view it is seen how much the patients notice and appreciate the kindness and care of the Nurses. I have often heard from the patients how good your Nurse is, and I have no doubt in other districts the same thing is heard of the other Nurses. The patients cannot understand how the Nurse can come into the room and yet look so cheerful, when they know how different it all is from what Nurse would like it to be.

As a practical illustration I may mention that women applying for letters always ask if they can have the Nurse; they know well the difference between her and a kindly neighbour: they always ask too for *the* Nurse, not *a* Nurse; and the Nurse always means your district Nurse."

How Christmas is spent in the Toronto General Hospital.

TORONTO, CANADA.

BY MISS SNIVELY, LADY SUPERINTENDENT.

CHRISTMAS! What varied emotions are called up by that word! To the young joy, but to those who are older it awakens sad memories—memories of the happy days long past when the home circle was complete. These find their happiness in seeking to bring brightness and joy into other lives, and this happiness, after all, is deeper and more lasting than any other. But you want to know how we spend Christmas at the Toronto General Hospital, so I must stop moralising and commence my story.

If you were to visit us even a week before the 25th, you would see that active preparations had commenced. Evergreens have been twined around the pillars in the wards, and festooned around the casings of windows and doors, while mottoes, bearing the words, "A Happy Christmas," "Glory to God in the Highest," &c., look out here and there between the greens.

The patients who are able to walk about are eagerly active, while even those who are still in bed, beg to be allowed to sit up and cut out letters for the mottoes, or help twine the evergreen into wreaths or roping.

The decorations are on rather an extensive scale, for not only the wards, but corridors, and amphitheatre are all decked for this festive season.

With all this to interest, the days speed rapidly by, and Christmas Eve approaches, with its annual Christmas tree for the patients. Norma, a most interesting little girl of four, who has been run over by an electric car, and lost her right leg above the knee and had her left foot crushed, is so far recovered as to be able, with the assistance of another patient, to write a letter to Santa Claus. It reads thus:

"Dear Santa Taus,—Please send me a dolly's tadle. I have a lots of dollies, but no dolly's tadle. And I would like a watch, and a pretty white pinny. Nurse does not like horns, so please Santa Taus don't send any.

"I have only one long footy, the tolly tar took the ozzier one off. Nurse said if I was a dood dirl I tood wite to you. So dood-bye, Santa Taus—wishing you A Merry Tissmas.

NORMA MOODY. Aged 4 years."

The much-longed-for 24th finally arrives, and the huge Christmas tree is placed in the amphitheatre. During the morning hours, kind ladies who long to see those who are sick and suffering, and away from home and friends, enjoy themselves, are busy assisting in choosing suitable presents for each patient, and in decorating the "tree."

Festoons of red and white popcorn, together with gold and silver tinsel, dip from the branches. Tiny mugs, candy hearts, canes, baskets, bags, and wooden barrels filled with candies, all tied with bright-coloured ribbons, hang from the boughs, while dolls innumerable peacefully repose in all the nooks and corners.

All the larger things are placed underneath, and not one patient is forgotten. The women get shoulder-shawls, stockings, warm skirts, work-bags containing thread, needles, scissors, &c., pretty vases

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