

Easter, and there we are consequently to be found in large numbers.

THE excitement in hospital begins in earnest with the return of the nurses, and willing hands help to dispose of the plants and flowers to the best advantage. In the children's wards the trimming of the Christmas trees keeps all hands busily employed, and the little occupants of the cots watch with the keenest delight the transformation of the familiar ward into veritable fairyland. It is difficult, when at last everything is finished, the lights are lowered, and bedtime has come, to hush the happy, eager voices, until the inspiration comes to a nurse that so long as the children are awake Santa Claus will not come down the chimney. In view of the possibility of such a dire calamity every eye is tightly closed, and soon the even-breathing which is heard on all sides proves that the opportunity of Santa Claus has arrived.

CHRISTMAS morning comes at last, and the pillows of the patients bear substantial proof that Santa Claus has been busy indeed. He seems to have forgotten nothing; the flannel shirt for the patient just recovering from pneumonia, the warm scarf, the ever-welcome petticoat, all are there, besides Christmas cards and other trifles without number. Truly Santa Claus takes hospitals under his special protection. So think the patients as they discuss their breakfast, as well as his gifts. Then the day nurses come on duty, and an interchange of Christmas greetings takes place. Then to business. It is clean-sheet morning, of course, but also clean counterpanes must be put on, the new red jackets donned, bright ribbons and smart pinafores be brought out for the tiny tots, till by the time "Matron" comes round, the wards and patients both look their very smartest. Probably there is a service in the ward in the course of the morning, and all who are able join happily in the Christmas hymns, familiar and dear to us all; and listen to the wondrous story, often repeated, yet ever new, of the Incarnation. Then comes dinner, when, so far as possible, the ordinary orders as to diet are waived, and no one is a whit the worse. After this the visitors have their innings, and then comes tea; after which the evening's entertainment begins in downright earnest, until at last the red-letter day comes to an end, and when sister hears No. 1 and No. 2 assuring one another before they settle down for the night that they "feel all over alike," she is satisfied that the labours of the day have not been in vain.

WE hear that the London Homoeopathic Hospital holds high revels on Christmas Eve. We unfortunately go to press before it is possible to give an account of the proceedings, but if we may judge from previous years those who have received invitations for this occasion may hold themselves exceptionally fortunate.

SIR WILLIAM BROADBENT has joined the Council of the Church Nurses' Guild, an organization which has, we understand, been formed "to promote social fellowship and spiritual advancement amongst nurses."

"SISTER MONICA," the nurse who is employed by the Warwick Ladies' Charity, has forsaken the Anglican for the Roman Communion, and feelings are running high in Warwick as to her retaining her post under these circumstances. It is urged by some that the Charity is a Church of England Institution, and that Sister Monica's retention of her position is therefore impossible, and by others that it is unsectarian. It is stated that Sister Monica has given every satisfaction in a professional sense, and that it is not within the province of the Charity to interfere in a personal or religious matter. We are quite of opinion that so long as a nurse does not force her own religious views upon her patients, that her professional qualifications are the only ones which should be taken into consideration, and to deprive a nurse of a post which she has filled with credit on account of a change in her religious views, appears to us ungenerous and wrong. Lord and Lady Warwick have both addressed letters to the *Warwick Advertiser* upon the subject, and Lady Warwick has announced her intention of resigning the presidency of the Charity if a skilled and devoted nurse, who has won the respect and friendship not only of her poor patients, but of all classes in Warwick, is dismissed because she has thought fit to leave the English Church.

A TERRIBLE tragedy has occurred in New York in the suicide of Miss Leila Herbert, youngest daughter of Mr. Hilary Herbert, former Secretary of the Navy. Miss Herbert met with severe injuries last September as the effects of a fall from a horse, and the knowledge that she was likely to be crippled for life brought on an attack of melancholia, so that the constant attendance of trained nurses was required. Early last Tuesday morning the nurse in attendance discovered that her patient had severed an artery at the wrist, and was bleeding to death. It is also stated that "while the nurse was absent giving the alarm," Miss Herbert leapt from a third storey window, and died almost immediately. This version of the story seems almost incredible. Surely a trained nurse would compress the brachial artery under such circumstances, and that she should leave the room of a patient who had just attempted suicide, for any reason whatsoever, appears incredible. We hope that an explanation may be soon forthcoming.

WE have to acknowledge a donation of £5 from Miss Emma Goldsmid towards the maintenance fund of Sir Julian Goldsmid's Home of Rest for Nurses at Brighton. Such generous gifts are very welcome.

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[previous page](#)

[next page](#)