

pains can be dropped on Christmas Day, even if picked up again. Followed by dumb charades, post, musical chairs, and, oh ! be not shocked, Sir Roger de Coverley ; when M., minus a leg, and J. an arm, performed some gallant steps.

7.30 brings high tea, the game for which our Doctors had sent. To finish up, the darkened room and snap-dragon, followed by prayers and carols, and then bliss for at least one member of the household in the shape of bed.

Throughout the day remarks might be heard : "Yes, this is fine, but wait for the party." At last even that day came—Jan. 5. It was but an incident in the day's events that an accident arrived during the morning. The party, which had formed a topic of conversation for the past year, consisted of a huge Christmas tree, reaching to the ceiling, just laden with home-made Jumbos and cats, flannel garments, &c. The guests, who consisted of about seventy old patients and those connected with the Hospital, from the Senior Surgeon to the rabbit-skin man, were expected at two p.m., the present patients having been begged to greet them cordially, not treat them like strange cats. Oranges, crackers, &c., relieved the tedium of the first hour. Spite of the pleasure in receiving one's friends, it is at least somewhat embarrassing when half-a-dozen arrive three hours at least before expected—it would be rude to say, wanted. One youth, the first on the scene, shortly after eight a.m., remarked, "There is nowt like being in time when you are axed out." The lesson I derived from this—for experience makes even Nurses wise—is to be provided with extra food when a party of this kind is afloat. Some of our guests, who worked on farms, had been up at the small hours and walked miles.

Some of our Doctors arriving at 3.30 was the signal for music. Then the guests were admitted into the large Ward to see the tree in its beauty. Such classical music as "He, She, and It" having been sung, tea was the next duty to perform, this being laid out in Matron's room and the kitchen ; followed by the presents off the tree, and repetition of Christmas games, with the slight omission that supper was not forthcoming.

At 8.30, large breaks, with pairs of horses, arrived ; the proprietor of — Hotel having availed himself of the privilege of helping in this way. So those who went to town did so in state, not the least part of the day's pleasure ; while another party was formed to escort the villagers down the lane.

Then a change came o'er the scene, bedsteads being put up, &c., &c.

Oh ! surely it is something to be able to bring a little real home-life—for, is not true home-life the ideal of Christianity?—into the lives of a few suffering brothers and sisters.

When we heard how poor E. was killed in the colliery accident so shortly after, what a comfort to know he had had that pleasure. These are but passing pictures of the life in a Cottage Hospital. But we should like, when there is leisure, to give a few more of the regular routine life ; feeling that sympathy is such a bond, and sympathy can only be given when there is a knowledge of each other's work. And is it too much to hope that Nursing work will serve as one great chain to make our women, of whatever creed, join hand in hand in the great warfare against sin and suffering ? And as those of us who trained at some of the large centres love to read of anything connected with them, so we think those who have passed on from us will care to catch glimpses of the wee Hospital they have left.

ELINOR PELL SMITH.

NURSING ECHOES.

**** Communications (duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith) are especially invited for these columns.*

THE Workhouse Infirmary Nursing Association is doing good work, and gradually raising the class of workers, and the value of the work done, in a field hitherto very much neglected. However, everything seems to point to a good time coming for pauper patients. Perfect palaces have for some years been in vogue for their reception, infinitely superior to many old-established Hospitals in every way. Trained Nurses are now, in increasing numbers, being persuaded to undertake work in these Institutions, and probably we shall next find that each Infirmary will obtain its Visiting Staff, Residents, Students, and all the paraphernalia of a General Hospital. Of course, then, it will be no credit to better class Nurses to work in Infirmaries. Now it must be very depressing and tantalising work, so all the more credit is due to those who are at present engaged in it. Miss Wilson writes me that a very interesting meeting on this subject was held on the 2nd inst., at 10, Great George Street, Westminster. Lady Colebrooke, Lady E. Cavendish, Lady F. Cavendish, Countess Brownlow, the Lady Wantage, Hon. Mrs. Hardcastle, Mrs. Bonham Carter, and others were present ; also many Lady Guardians, and several Matrons of Workhouses and Infirmaries.

MR. RATHBONE, M.P., was unavoidably prevented from opening the proceedings, but his place was ably filled by Mr. Talbot, M.P. Miss L. Twining's exhaustive paper brought many important, and in some cases startling, facts to light. She dwelt

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