

ment to the priests' intoning, and the silver bell's ring was followed by the silence of the Elevation.

It left off raining and was very warm, so as soon as I got to Hospital (7.30) I collected several convalescents and took them to the little Hospital Chapel.

After rounds, Dr. C— got flowers, and we put two tables together in the centre of Sala III. Galasso, a convalescent, and formerly waiter in restaurants, arranged the cloth and table napkins, decorating the table beautifully with the flowers, and 14 of the strongest patients (the 14th was dragged out of bed by the doctor on discovering there would have been 13 at table) ate there together comfortably, instead of each by his own bed as usual. The women also had a table decorated with flowers; and poor Sala I made a piteous attempt too at at festivity, arranging a table so well, (all Italians have genius for adornment) but no one got up to eat at it, as I had not time to see to more than the two downstairs wards.

Padre Filippo came to give the blessing, donning such a pretty pale blue and silver stole, bringing prayer book and holy water. The "stuffed fowls" were greatly approved of, the usual "pasta" was made more tasty, and salad given with the roast; whilst marsala was added to the usual red wine, and was very much appreciated.

By 2.30 I left them all in a quiescent condition, and being tired after eight hours and a half without food or a moment's rest, I had lunch in my little room upstairs, (they send me my lunch now from the convent), refusing kind Padre Filippo's invitation to eat with him.

In the evening a very characteristic sight awaited us in the woman's ward as we went the rounds. We heard singing as we came near, and entering quietly we found 8 of the patients sitting round the Presepio which was brilliantly illuminated by candle-ends of various heights, and adorned with flowers. It was so indescribably picturesque, I longed for a Kodak. The comic element came in with our semi-paralysed Maria, who seemed to have been galvanised into life by the Presepio being placed by her bed (a centre one). She was sitting up in bed in her extraordinary cap, singing astonishingly well and lustily verses to the Bambin Gesu. Her intense satisfaction, the half earnest, half amused faces of the others who joined in the refrain of the hymns, the gentle sympathising smile of the Professor and stifled merriment of the young doctor all made up a picture I longed to record. The Chief is one of the nicest men I know—he was suffering keenly from gout but yet was genuinely pleased at his "children's" happiness. "Sono cose buone," he repeated, encouraging instead of damping their ardour of devotion.

By seven everyone was tired and sleepy, so I got into clean uniform and took a "carozzella" to Lady H.'s, who gave me an orthodox English Christmas dinner, even to the mince pies. But I was really too tired to quite enjoy anything, and fear having made but a dull guest, so came away at ten—sleeping in the "carozzella."

December 28th.—My colleague arrived this evening. She impresses me more than ever satisfactorily—"grit," humour, and, superlatively, the nurse instinct.

December 29.—G. B. came to look at the Gesu e Maria. She thought all hopeful except the *infermieri inservienti*. During the "feste" they work even more irregularly than usual. I introduce her as a

"dottorressa," for, until we have official permission from the Consiglio for her to take my place, she must remain *incognita*.

New Year's Eve.—After the evening rounds (made early) the "dottorressa" came and brought biscuits to give with "rosolio," the favourite Neapolitan liqueur, to all of those patients who were not on strict diet. The Chief, two doctors and ourselves went round and distributed to the patients, and also to the *infermieri* and the *infermiere*. Our old lady in Sala II. sat up and sang wonderfully, both loud and long; after the rosolio, although she had been feeling too weak before, she said, to favour us. We left them with their illuminated Presepio, and walked home by starlight talking of all this old year had brought to us, and of our hopes and plans for the year to come.

Preparations, Inventions, etc.

GRIFFIN UNSHRINKABLE UNDERWEAR.

It is of great importance to nurses to obtain woollen underwear which will stand the vicissitudes to which it is exposed at hospital laundries as well as at the various laundries to which, as private nurses, their washing is sent. Nothing is more annoying than to find that new vests or combinations sent to the wash for the first time, have shrunk to half their rightful proportions, or have become thick and matted, but there are few persons who have not suffered from these vexatious mishaps.

We have therefore pleasure in directing attention to the Griffin Brand of Unshrinkable Underwear manufactured by Messrs. F. and W. E. White, Ltd., Loughborough. The Griffin Brand undergarments are supplied by all of the leading drapers, or can be procured by them, but if there is any difficulty in obtaining them, application should be made direct to the manufacturers.

This underwear is delightfully soft, smooth, and supple, and we feel confident that those who once adopt it will find it hard to beat. So convinced are the manufacturers of its unshrinkable qualities, that they undertake to exchange any garment bearing their trade mark which becomes too small for the wearer after ordinary careful washing. As the time is at hand when winter garments must be laid aside, we should advise our readers to bear in mind the Griffin Underwear.

Coming Events.

May 10th.—General Meeting of the League of St. John's House Nurses, St. John's House, 8, Norfolk Street, Strand, W.C., 2.30 p.m. To be followed by a Social Gathering 4.30 to 6.30.

May 29th.—Annual Conference Matrons' Council, Medical Societies' Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, 2.30 p.m. Miss Isla Stewart, President, in the chair.

May 30th.—Meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, Morley Hall, 26, George Street, Hanover Square. Address by Miss Louisa Stevenson, 3 p.m.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)