

Nursing Echoes.

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The Christmas fever is beginning to pervade the hospitals, and many are the conclaves as to how each ward may be made the "prettiest in the hospital." Dusty decorations are now things of the past; they were picturesque, but they were dangerous as dirt traps, and so had to go. But of growing plants and fresh cut flowers it is almost impossible to have too many, and colour schemes to be successful must be carefully thought out. Then each patient and his (or her) needs must be considered. So there is work in plenty for willing hands, and if nurses are sometimes tempted to wonder if the adage is true as to many hands making light work, there is no doubt that the work makes happy hearts.

On Friday afternoon last week the Nurses' Co-operation were At Home at the Nurses' Club, 35, Langham Street, W., when there was a show of the work of the Nurses' Needlework Guild in the Club Room. The guests were received by Miss Laura Baker, Sister-in-Charge, and a dainty tea was served in the restaurant, which always looks charming with its pale yellow and white tiled walls, and its tables decorated with palms and flowers.

The Guild has now 200 members, and its object is to assist needy hospital patients, especially those leaving the hospital insufficiently clad, with warm and useful clothing. Each member undertakes to contribute sixpence a year and one garment, and associates—ladies who are not nurses—a shilling and two garments annually. Over 400 useful garments were on view at the show. Piles of beautifully made flannelette nightdresses, flannel petticoats, hug-me-tights, warm flannel shirts (can a ward sister ever have too many of these?), warm shawls, children's pinafores, beautifully knitted hoods, etc., were displayed in abundance, and one warm friend of the Guild had sent no less than sixty-five comforters. The Hon. Secretary, Miss Theobald,

explained that at the end of the afternoon parcels would be made up and sent off to various hospitals. A more welcome Christmas gift can scarcely be imagined.

The gifts were distributed as follows:—London Hospital, 40 articles; St. Mary's, 37; Brompton Hospital for Consumption, 30; Middlesex Hospital, 38; Metropolitan Hospital, 45; East London Hospital for Children, 30; University College Hospital, 40; Guy's Hospital, 30; the Central London Sick Asylum, 40; and Nazareth House, 46.

A very pleasant At Home was given by Miss Edith Debenham, at St. Andrew's House Club, Mortimer Street, W., on Saturday last, the invitation sent out being "to view the Club with its recent extension." The additions consist of an extra dining-room, which is panelled with oak in harmony with the original dining-room, out of which it opens. On the floors above this are two delightful self-contained flats, with ample cupboard room and bath rooms. The residents in the flats can be supplied with attendance from the Club, and the dining room is open to them for meals. On the top floor of all, through the pleasant kitchen, are additional rooms for the domestic staff, and an attractive sick room furnished in the most up-to-date manner.

At St. Andrew's House, on such occasions, one is always sure of hearing excellent music, and Mr. Barlow and others delighted the guests with their songs, and Miss Muriel Matters recited most charmingly.

Dr. Jane Walker last week presided at a meeting held at 3, Brunswick Place, Regent's Park, the residence of Mrs. F. M. Simpson, with reference to the School for Mothers at Somers Town, the object of which is the prevention of the sacrifice of infant life. Mrs. Bertrand Russell said that the Medical Officer of Health for St. Pancras, Dr. Sykes, instituted a system of visits by health visitors to poor mothers as soon as the birth of the children was registered. The result has been that the infant mortality in the borough has greatly decreased, but Dr. Sykes was constantly coming across more evil results of ignorance and under-feeding than could be attended to by the visitors, so a "School for Mothers" has been started somewhat after the plan of one already established at Ghent. The school has now been working for six months with excellent results. The mothers are taught the importance of breast feeding, and information is given them in a friendly way as to feeding and clothing, sewing, and

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