

what they had when in a Hospital on Christmas Day.

To finish up the evening after the big tree is unloaded, a few simple games in the way of snap-crackers, or sometimes a lady or gentleman kindly come for a short time to amuse and entertain them, and on that day those who are well enough are allowed to sit up longer, feeling that eight p.m. is rather early to go to bed on that day, although some are quite ready to go even at that hour, feeling that the pleasure they have had has made them tired.

The bells of the church are heard early and throughout the day, reminding all it is some special season, and even in this way our Hospital is not forgotten, for we have a short service in the afternoon, and all enjoy being able to sing the Christmas hymns, and to have the good wishes from the clergyman. He always likes, after wishing all good-bye, to have a look at the treat in store for the evening—"the tree."

In many homes of the rich there are various packets at each one's place on the breakfast table. The members of the family know there will be something, and it is with delight they open one packet after the other. I am afraid few of those think of the suffering ones in the many Hospitals; but I think the unexpected gifts in the evening from our tree are received with more delight than those expected on the breakfast table. But why? The poor do not always get such gifts. That day, when in health, is more often spent in feasting and drinking, for they feel they must spend their bit of money to get a little meat, &c., then, for many go from one week to the next without meat or any dainties on their table. Then at such a time of illness a present given cheers their hearts, and the garments keep them warm.

The day after Christmas each one is so anxious to compare with the others the gifts they have received, and any fresh one going into the Wards will find how ready they all are to show what they have got.

It is not nice to feel that perhaps a patient has been in months, and on the 23rd of December leaves the Hospital. Will he or she have no gift off that tree? Some may say, "No! he is not there when the tree is unloaded." Yes! there will be that one remembered too; it will be either on the tree before he leaves, and he must please call for something—they are not told what—or there will be a bundle given to him as he is leaving.

Then another instance. There is a patient dying of some lingering illness; he cannot make use of such things the others can, but even he may be thought of; something can be put on the tree for him. He may suffer with cold feet; a pair of bed socks will be useful to him, or

cannot there be a suitable text that may give him comfort in times of pain and weariness, and after he no longer can see it, there is some dear one at home who would like to have it, and feel glad to know it was a blessing to the one gone where the pain and suffering is over and he is at rest. Such has been the case, and only a day before death that patient said, "Nurse, don't forget my text there that I had on Christmas Day. You know what I want done with that!"

We are always glad when we can say on Christmas morning, "How nice it is we have no one very ill!" It makes a difference to all, more particularly to the Nurse and the patients in that Ward; and as Christmas is drawing so near, let us hope that in the many Hospitals they may be few. All like to feel well at such times. How often a Nurse feels at such times, when the year is fast slipping away, "I wonder how many patients I shall have to attend to, how many strange faces I shall see, before next Christmas Day!"

Some Hospitals have no Christmas trees, but they make their Wards bright and cheerful, and they may have quite as much enjoyment and pleasure in a different way. Every Nurse finds different ways of doing things, even in dressing wounds; therefore, every one will find Christmas Day spent, it may be, quite in another style to the last Hospital, and perhaps she may give a thought to the one where she spent her last and first Christmas in Hospital life. Some Nurses when having their day a month off duty try to get home for this day; but although nice to go, how many patients she leaves behind who wish our Nurse was there to have some of their pleasure!

One Christmas morning, a little girl on waking up and finding a big doll wrapped up in paper on her bed asked why it was there. The patients told her that was her Christmas present, but she could not understand why she had anything; she never had it before; and would all at home have Christmas presents? Her doll went by the name of "Christmas doll," and in coming in after she said: "It won't be Christmas time now, will it?"

I have almost forgotten to mention there may be one or two patients come in a day or two before Christmas; do they have any gifts off the tree? Yes; although not so much as the others, they get their gift off the tree, for it would not be nice to feel they were forgotten. The servants, too, as well as the porter, are remembered, for they need pleasure sometimes. A small Hospital is better able to give these pleasures than a large one; but unless some one makes up their mind to do the work of it and carry it out, it is of no use, for in arranging a tree, even for the patients, there is much to be thought of, and many hours to be spent, in working for their comfort.

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