

Nursing Echoes.



We note with pleasure that in the press reports of hospital Christmas functions, the Matrons and nurses come in for much praise, as it is certainly greatly owing to their energy and good management that these reunions are so bright and enjoyable. Many not only collect special funds for the purpose of giving the patients a happy time, but give generously themselves, and many pathetic little stories are told of the gratitude of the patients. One from Dundee we think very touching. A little fellow at the Royal Infirmary who had been clothed in garments contributed by hospital friends was seen by a nurse to steal towards the money-box in the ward, and surreptitiously drop in something. On being questioned as to his action, the boy reluctantly owned that he had been putting in the ha'penny his mother had given him that day, to prove his gratitude for all that had been done for him. And remember that was a Scottish laddie, parting with his only "bawbee."

The Christmas season at the Prince of Wales' Hospital, Tottenham, has left many pleasant recollections in the hearts of all who spent it within its walls. Christmas Day was kept right royally, and on Tuesday, a gigantic Christmas tree reared its head right up to the ceiling in the biggest men's ward, and thither were transported all such as could possibly walk or be carried there. Each patient who had any juvenile belongings was allowed to invite two, and while one side of the large ward was packed with beds, couches, and cots for the use of the in-patients, the other was crammed with small visitors on forms and chairs, their elders finding standing room at the back. A fine display of animated pictures by Messrs. Maskelyne and Devant gave great entertainment to all, and was followed by a distribution of the gifts from the tree to everyone present. Tired out with delights at last, and more than half asleep, yet still hugging closely the gift of Teddie bear or doll from the tree, the little ones from the children's ward were afterwards carried back to their cots, there to go over it all again in their dreams. During the evening, the other wards were all open for inspection, and their variety of illuminated decorations were much admired by the visitors. A representation of the North Pole executed in plaster

of Paris by one of the Sisters, with bears and Esquimaux dressed in lint attracted much attention in the children's ward. A miniature Japanese tea garden occupied a table generally devoted to the doctors' use, and a Maypole dance of daily dressed dolls made a bright spot of colour in one of the women's surgical wards.

New Year's afternoon was dedicated to the out-patient children, of whom two hundred of the poorest were gathered at the invitation of the Matron, Miss Fox, in the large waiting hall, where a Punch and Judy show was provided for them, a gramophone to entertain them while they discussed a bountiful tea, gifts being afterwards distributed to all before they left. To judge by the noise and the happy faces, this too was a decided success.

The Christmas Tree at the London Homoeopathic Hospital, Great Ormond Street, W.C., is always looked forward to with delight by the little inmates of Barton Ward, and this year the entertainment given in connection with the distribution of its fruit took place on Thursday last week. The expenses were defrayed from a special fund collected by the Matron, Miss Clara Hoadley, who, with the Sisters and nurses, had also decorated the wards most tastefully. A feature of this Tree is always the surprise presents for the officers, medical staff, and nurses, arranged by those who are well acquainted with them, their tastes and eccentricities; these gifts occasioned much laughter, and seemed to be highly appreciated by the recipients. They were distributed by the senior surgeon, Mr. Knox Shaw, who quite entered into the spirit of the fun. Tea was served in Durning Ward, where Sister May presided and made all the guests welcome.

The Committee of the hospital are appealing for £10,000 to build a Nurses' Home, in which it is hoped to give each nurse a separate bedroom. Donations to the fund for this purpose will be gratefully acknowledged by the Secretary, Mr. E. A. Attwood.

A most pleasant "At Home" was given on the invitation of the Guardians of the parish of Marylebone at the Infirmary, Notting Hill, on Thursday in last week. A general invitation was extended to the ratepayers of the parish, and invitations were also issued to the friends of the institution, and of the nursing staff. The guests were received by the Matron, Miss S. J. Cockrell, kindest of hostesses, and tea was served in the spacious Board Room, which was crowded with the numerous guests who had come to show their good will to the Infirmary, its inmates, and staff.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)