

assuring the ward that she was "not yet dead." But the probationers were so sure of the work, which for so many months they had carried out in the surgical block, that it was smooth sailing in comparison to the taking over of the first wards when they knew nothing, and Sisters, Staff Nurses, and even Matron helped them make beds, and learn the use of screens.

In December we also had photos taken, a group of the whole nursing staff, with our two Chiefs and their house surgeons and doctors, succeeding remarkably well, one wing of the little Convitto Home making the background.

Christmas we spent happily and with gaiety. The Mother Superior invited the nurses to hear the midnight masses in the Convent chapel. Miss Snell arranged for many of the staff and several probationers to be present, whilst she and I finished the framing and writing of quotations on little photos of Florence Nightingale which were our Christmas gift to the probationers.

Two superb cakes arrived from Queen Elena, each with a garden of preserved fruit in the centre: these we had on Christmas Day at afternoon tea and coffee—all the staff together, in the probationers' salone.

In the evening tables were decorated with the English and Italian colours, and many toasts were drunk. Amongst them was one to Florence Nightingale, implored for by the probationers. We drank to her memory therefore, and they "to her glory"—*alla sua gloria*. As we have a Dutch nurse on the staff, Miss Snell proposed "Holland's hope," which was also drunk to with enthusiasm, as were our respective monarchs, the ladies of the Committee, and, of course, ourselves of all degrees.

On the Monday after Christmas Day the patients had their party. We had wished to institute Father Christmas, and have some singing, but this was deemed too great an innovation for the first year by the hospital authorities, so the Sisters contented themselves with charming decorations, and presents for everyone tied up in coloured paper with name and number of bed on each parcel, so that there could be no mistake in giving to the right owner. Refreshments were also laid out on the centre tables, cakes, fruit, sweets, coffee, etc. Princess Doria and Mme. Maraini, with the two Signore Bastianelli and their husbands, went the round of the wards helping the nurses bestow the gifts and the food.

Altogether it was most successful, and women and children especially continued to pour out their gratitude for the happy festa till sleep fell on them.

In the Nurses' Home a party with theatricals had been arranged for January 2nd. A nice stage was lent by the American Club, and a friend promised to bring her violin. On New Year's Eve we had a dress rehearsal, and the nurses' friends and relations were invited. Two probationers acted a "quite correct" little comedy exceedingly well, aided by the brother of one of them. Others sang and played, and two English nurses gave us "a brown paper parcel," to the especial delight of the pros. Both at the dress rehearsal and the

real performance we had the dining room tables decorated with the "red, white, and blue," and "red, white, and green" of the Anglo-Italian alliance, and each evening terminated with the "Marcia Reale," "God Save the King," and "Auld Lang Syne." The Direttore and his daughters, the professors and their wives, several doctors, and a few personal friends, linking hands with the nursing staff in approved British fashion.

But this already seems very far back in past history! We have since had a good deal of sickness, causing a shortage, both of nurses and probationers, which has entailed work at highest pressure. But this has only served to prove the metal of the English staff, who have risen superbly to the emergency, inspiring their pupils with admiration and affection, which is bringing forth the fruit of attempt at imitation, and will, Miss Snell trusts, enable several of the seniors to act as assistant staff nurses on the termination of their first year—the beginning of April.

M. A. TURTON.

THE LONDON NURSES' CO-OPERATION.

The twentieth annual report of the Nurses' Co-operation, 8, New Cavendish Street, W., states that there are on the staff 462 fully trained nurses on the general staff, 31 Asylum trained nurses for mental patients, and 24 eligible for election, working on probation for six months. The gross receipts have been £46,359 14s. 9d., of which the sum of £43,692 18s. 4d. has been paid to the nurses. The income derived from the commission on fees earned by the nurses, and as interest on investments, amounting to £2,856 14s. 5d., is dealt with in paying all working expenses of the Co-operation, with the charge in respect of the Howard de Walden Home and Vandyck Mansions, after which there is an excess of income over all such charges of £256 16s. 9d. The Committee record their indebtedness to the Lady Superintendent, Mrs. Lucas, for her kindly and economical management, and to Miss Laura Baker, Sister-in-Charge of the Howard de Walden Home.

THE SMALL-POX OUTBREAK.

There are now some fifty cases of small-pox under treatment at the Joyce Green Hospital of the Metropolitan Asylums Board. Lecturing to sanitary officers at the Royal Sanitary Institute, Professor H. R. Kenwood said: "It is impossible as yet to say whether the outbreak will extend considerably or not, as the facts seem to be against the infection getting out of hand. But the medical officers of health of London have a very grave anxiety to face as to what the results may be if this infection which has cropped up is not very quickly scotched. If it should get fairly broadcast, as it did about nine years ago, we have no doubt that London will suffer a considerable outbreak of the disease, probably of larger dimensions than the last outbreak, and entailing more suffering."

THE PLAGUE.

The *Lancet* of February 25th contains an interesting article from the British Delegate to the Constantinople Board of Health, dealing with plague in Russia and in the near and far East.

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