

NURSING ECHOES.

From the numerous reports which we have received from hospitals all over the kingdom, as well as from those which we have personally had the pleasure of visiting, it would appear that never have the patients in hospitals and kindred institutions had a more right royal time than this year.

At the St. Marylebone Infirmary, where the Guardians, according to their annual custom, invited the ratepayers, former members of the nursing staff, and other friends to an At Home on Wednesday, December 27th, the whole building was thrown open to inspection. Very festive it all looked, the nursing staff in the various wards vying with one another as to the best colour scheme in their decorations, great secrecy being observed in this respect. Though all were beautiful, probably the palm was given by most people to the very effective petunia colour adopted by one ward for the shades for the chandeliers, the pulls of the incandescent lights being decorated with pale pink roses. Much cleverness and ingenuity were exhibited by patients, one of whom had made a life-sized Japanese lady, who presided over the ward, facing the visitors as they entered. In another instance a troupe of excellently got-up Christie Minstrels were in possession. In all, the sickness and trouble which had brought together the hundreds of patients at present under the kindly care of the Guardians and their willing co-adjutors—Mr. Basil Hood, M.R.C.S., the Medical Superintendent; Miss Cockrell, the Matron, and the staffs working under them—seemed to be put on one side, and happiness and gaiety were everywhere in evidence.

Most interesting were the other departments of the infirmary thrown open for inspection—the great kitchen, the bakehouse, the room in which all the milk is sterilized and its quality tested, the laundry where the whole washing of the establishment is done, and the chapel, gay and bright with Christmas decorations. The Nurses' Home also, where in the sitting-room a marble figure of Miss Nightingale presides over successive generations of probationers, is comfortable and cheery, and it was evident that the many former pupils who were to be seen in the Board Room enjoying the bountiful hospitality of their former training school were delighted with the opportunity of returning to it, and that they held it in great affection.

At the East London Hospital for Children, Shadwell, the children were on the tiptoe of expectation; the wards looked particularly beautiful, and were bright with flowers brought from Covent Garden by the Sisters and nurses in the early hours of the morning; these, with the various-coloured lamp shades and the new red jackets of the children made the atmosphere very festive, and the children were on their best behaviour, and hardly a whimper was heard for three hours. Excitement reached its height when, after a sumptuous tea, all who were able were carried to the gaily decorated Out-patient Hall, and first were delighted with a marionette show, after which Father Christmas, impersonated by the House Surgeon, dispensed his favours from the illuminated Christmas trees. At six o'clock, happy and laden with toys, the children were back in their wards, and the Members of the Board of Management, of the Visiting Staff, and the many old friends who had shared the pleasures of the afternoon began to disperse.

At the Richmond, Whitworth, and Hardwicke Hospitals, Dublin, the patients spent a most enjoyable Christmas, which may be taken as a type of many others. The wards looked lovely, the patients had the best of Christmas fare, after which the men greatly appreciated gifts of pipes and tobacco or cigarettes, and the women clothing and sweets. The children in the early hours of the morning found that Father Christmas had passed their way and left them stockings filled with treasures. Many artistes gave their services to make the season enjoyable, the Matron, Miss Holden, as one of the children quaintly said, "playing the Band."

Trained nurses are urgently needed for the three following mission stations: Benares, India; Tiberias, Palestine; Adana, Turkey. Information can be obtained from Miss H. Y. Richardson, 52, Lower Sloane Street, London, S.W. This is an opportunity for members of the Nurses' Missionary League, who, no doubt, will not be slow to respond.

Speaking editorially on our article on "The After-Care of Operations on Out-Patients," September 23rd, the *British Medical Journal* gives its powerful support to our appeal for greater care in the dressing of out-patient operations on the throat, nose, and ear. After touching on our report of a sad personal experience of meeting in a public car children bleeding from the nose after operations for adenoids, devoid of any dressing whatever, our

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