

it was placed at the Policlinico by the Government, and the II. Padiglione had been officially given to it according to arrangements made some time before.

So there it ended! Whether the inferi have gained what they wanted we do not know. Probably they are still waiting, for everything that could be was put off then till the New Year, and "after the Feste," and now they may defer again "till after Carnival," only the signorine remain, and increase.

From 16 English and 48 Italian nurses in December, the staff now numbers 14 English and 52 Italians. A fact of very deep importance is that amongst the eight last probationers, four are nuns. From the commencement we have had two Florentine nuns as probationers (now staff nurses), and their example has at last helped to convince everyone that the training of Suore is not an impossibility. So, on January 1st, four of the Roman Suore di Carita entered the S.C.R.E., garbed in white overalls (grembuioni) over grey washing skirts, with elastic on sleeves enabling them to bare their arms for work and disinfection.

The question of the Government taking over hospital and school is a matter which I leave to Matron to relate in the near future. It is still being worked out, and notice would be at present premature.

I may say, though, that one outcome which has taken place is the commissioning of someone in authority to choose the site of a future Nurses' Home—Convitto—which will be of sufficient size for the nursing staff of the Policlinico, 400 to 450 beds.

The Queen has shown more than ever her interest in *her* school, surprise visits and still more surprise gifts at Christmas being the latest outward proof. On Christmas Eve large hampers containing various provisions—fruit, sweets, cakes, &c.—and a sweet little Christmas tree, all "dressed," appeared, a charming letter from her secretary expressing Her Majesty's wish that the tree should be for the nurses, and not "in the generosity of Matron's heart," be handed on to the patients. Later on a supply of "very special tea" arrived and on New Year's morning large baskets of glorious flowers.

Our festivities were managed—in spite of ward and other takings over—as usual; only, in accordance with the customs of the country, and because of the growing expense with increasing number of pavilions, gifts and decorations were not gone in for in the wards, but only a cosy little "merenda"—Italian equivalent for tea—was given to the patients at three o'clock on Christmas Day. Midnight Mass had been granted us, for the first time, in the Hospital Chapel, and some thirty S.C.R.E. nurses sang there the "Adeste Fidelis" (with six of the S.C.R.E. maids), the solo part taken by Sister Whyte.

Our nurses' parties were on January 1st and 3rd, and were "more than ever successful" we were told on all sides. We had not attempted

any play, as the delay in getting new dining room (it was promised for October 1st) caused too much inconvenience to allow for rehearsals. But we were blessed by the possession of a real musician in the person of Miss Ethel Horsley (temporarily with us), and by the kindness of Miss Weedon Cooke (sister to S. Cooke, II. Pad. Donne), who consented to become a new incarnation of Mrs. Jarley, and improvised it as that of a Chinaman, in genuine costume and pigtail, speaking in pigeon Italian, and, with Miss Horsley's perfect piano accompaniments, making everything a complete success.

English and Italians joined in being the wonderful "puppazze" (puppets), which the Chinaman declared he had himself made able to sing and dance, which they proceeded to do as Geisha girls, Watteau minuet figures, ten little nigger boys, &c., &c. Other kind friends sang delightfully, and a young Russian violinist, Mdlle. Assia Schucht—who hopes soon to make her *début* in Paris or London—gave us exquisite renderings of Schumann's "Réverie," "Serenade Kubelik," Wieniewski "Souvenir de Moscou," &c.

The final tableau represented "Italia e Britannia," robed in historic garb, with their respective flags draped in the background, introduced by Chinaman Jarley as "two nations who worked together in perfect friendship in their task of nursing," and whom he called on us to salute with hopes for long continuance of friendly co-operation, while Miss Horsley played the "Marcia Reale" and "God Save the King."

M. A. TURTON.

DEAFNESS CAUSED BY TEA.

In the *Proceedings of the Royal Society* a case of deafness caused by tea drinking is reported, which might be taken to heart by some nurses. The patient was subject to worry and found that strong tea cheered her up, and admitted taking it as often as eight or ten times a day. She could only hear a whisper or the ticking of a watch at six inches from both ears. The tea drinking was stopped, and in four weeks the hearing improved to 18 inches for watch and whispered voice. The habit was resumed and the deafness returned. On again giving up the habit normal hearing was restored.

FATIGUE AND SLEEP.

The *St. Louis Medical Review* states that athletes find that repose without sleep best relieves fatigue after prolonged strain. The reason for this is that the internal secretion antidote to fatigue products is more rapidly formed during waking hours and more freely supplied to the muscles when the blood is not accumulated in the splanchnic area.

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