

REFLECTIONS

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

At the Homœopathic Hospital the annual Christmas gathering of visitors took place on December 30th. Christmas Eve was, so to speak, the day of the home festivities, when the patients received their presents. On Monday the invited guests wandered at will through the really beautiful wards, which were seen to great advantage, decked as they were for the occasion with taste and skill. King Edward VII Ward was truly a marvel of beauty; "summer" indeed it was. The archway at the entrance was covered with blue and white clematis, tall Mary lilies and hollyhocks grew up the sides, standard rose trees of named varieties made exactly to pattern occupied a corner to themselves, butterflies were poised lightly on the petals, even a caterpillar was found to be climbing a stalk. Blue birds were flying across the ceiling, and were *singing* in an entrancing way. The miniature lake on the glass table was covered with waterlilies, and a little green frog had made an island for himself on the leaves. It would be difficult to imagine anything in the way of decoration to excel this. We understand that the flowers, which were marvellously realistic, were made by a patient in the Ward, the grouping done by the Sister. Congratulations to them both. In the Children's Ward, with its charming effect of pink quilts and lamp-shades, was a monster tree. The little infants were sweet in soft woolly jackets. A delightful feature of this Ward is the children's drawing-room. Tea was dispensed to the guests in the Dysart Ward.

A charming entertainment, arranged by the Ladies' Committee at the Chelsea Hospital for Women, for patients and nurses, when Lady Lonsdale received the visitors, was given on Thursday, January 2nd. In no hospital do the patients seem better cared for, or happier. Indeed, one said, with conviction, to the writer, "We couldn't be better cared for if we were duchesses." After tea had been enjoyed an excellent musical entertainment was given by Mr. Selwyn Driver, as many patients as possible being present, and then a wonderful Christmas Tree, reaching to the ceiling of a ward, bearing a fairy on its topmost bough, and gleaming with many-coloured electric lights, and altogether "mystic, wonderful," was quickly stripped of its fruit. The portion of the Matron, Miss Riddell, was a beautifully modelled doll, a native of Africa evidently from its colour, dressed in native fashion, and with a wee replica of itself slung on to its back. For each nurse as well as patient there was an acceptable gift, and many willing hands carried round the parcels to those patients who had to remain in their own wards. The decorations of the corridors and wards were as usual both dainty and effective. The festivities of the season were brought to a close on Saturday

last by a theatrical performance arranged by the nurses for their friends, and much unsuspected talent was revealed.

On the evening of January 2nd the Christmas entertainment took place at St. John's House, 12, Queen Square, Bloomsbury. It was an informal and friendly gathering, at which many of the nurses formerly members of the staff were present, for there is a strong feeling of affection for the House on the part of those who have worked in connection with it. Much amusement was caused by a competition in which those present were invited to guess the plays represented by some of the nurses, two prizes being given to those who guessed the greatest number. The first prize was won by Miss Richardson, and the second by Mrs. Hutchinson. Amongst the characters "Sweet Nell of Old Drury," "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," "The Liars," and others were excellently portrayed. Both before and after supper dancing was greatly enjoyed, and Sir Roger de Coverley and musical chairs, at which the revels were led by Miss Greenstreet, were very popular. The Sister Superior was indefatigable in looking after everyone's comfort and pleasure, and all agreed that the evening was a great success.

THE KAISAR-I-HIND MEDAL.

Amongst the New Year's Honours the King has been graciously pleased to award the "Kaisar-i-Hind Medal for Public Service in India," of the First Class, to Mrs. Gabrielle Louise Caroline le Howard, M.A., Personal Assistant to the Imperial Economic Botanist.

ORDER OF NAVAL MERIT.

Authority has been given by His Majesty to Elena Josephine Emily, wife of Mr. Horace Prudentius Parodi, of Gibraltar, to wear the Cross of the First Class of the Order of Naval Merit, which has been conferred on her by the King of Spain.

DAINTY PREPARATIONS.

Most of us can remember in the days of our youth that the visit of a doctor was apt to be followed by the administration of a nauseous medicine, and if we escaped the doctor the home treatment for the good of our health consisted largely of such compounds as brimstone and treacle, senna tea, castor oil thinly veiled by a layer of brown sugar, iron and quinine, and other obnoxious drugs. Nowadays the taking of medicine may be quite a pleasant process; witness, Iron Jelloids, dainty and even delectable as well as efficacious. No child, however pampered, could object to taking these attractive little sweetmeats, and the "Jelloid" Co., of 76, Finsbury Pavement, E.C., are greatly to be congratulated on their introduction.

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