

TYPICAL HOSPITAL CHRISTMAS.

Throughout the hospital world Christmas has been kept with all the gaiety, fun and goodwill, which are characteristic of our observance of the day. So much has been done everywhere, to give the patients a happy time that it seems almost invidious to mention any hospital in particular, but the following notes are given as typical of what has been done by the nursing and medical staff of our hospitals, to make this season a joyful one for the patients.

QUEEN'S HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN.

The little patients have had a royal Christmas in this hospital. Nothing could have excelled the arrangements that Sisters and Nurses combined to make for their pleasure. The decorations were artistic and original, and the wards vied with one another in their schemes. Pixie Land! with weird little figures peeping from bed-heads and tables; Cracker Land! with its monster bon-bon depending from the ceiling, supported by crackers of every size and colour; Winter Sports, whose centre table was occupied by fascinating little figures ski-ing. Perhaps the most charming of all was the Japanese Garden, with its wealth of delicate pink flowers on brown branches, giving the long ward a most truly Celestial effect. And to crown all these delightful decorations, a monster Christmas Tree in every ward. The Sisters were kind enough to give us a foretaste of the joys that were to be on the morrow, by turning on the electric light that was cunningly placed among the branches. The Christmas gathering was fixed for December 28th, so we were the appreciative witness of the joys of anticipation.

THE EVELINA HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN.

The annual Christmas gathering took place on Friday, December 27th. The proceedings were opened by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, and one of the Sheriffs. The scene at the distribution of the Christmas tree presents was a very gay one. Father Christmas, a Pierrot, and a fireman (whom we were informed were respectively the resident staff) were indefatigable in handing the presents to the little ones, who had, where possible, been brought in from the other wards to receive them. They all seemed delighted with their gifts, which were indeed calculated to gladden the heart of any child; the only discontented person being the baby in the incubator, who persistently ignored her gorgeous rattle, puckered up her little wizened face, and wept. Tea was served for the guests at dainty little tables.

THE CHEST HOSPITAL, CITY ROAD.

This kept Christmas Day with festivity for the In-patients. Turkey and plum-pudding had no ill effects. In the women's ward a large snow man was a novel feature, and all the wards were gay with flowers made by the willing hands of patients

and nurses. Boxing Day was devoted to the Out-patients' party, when 140 children were entertained in the Out-patients' Hall. There was a large Christmas Tree, and Father Christmas gave away presents to each delighted child. An enormous Teddy Bear, life size, got in at the window, and it was whispered that a doctor from a neighbouring hospital was responsible for this breach of the peace.

THE EAST END MOTHERS' HOME.

Everything that love and ingenuity could provide was the portion of the mothers at Christmas in this charming Home. Fathers came to tea; every new baby's brothers and sisters (whether it were born in the Home or on the District) were invited to a party and Christmas Tree. They were given an excellent tea, at which one hundred and thirty sat down, and in addition each child had a toy and an article of clothing. Poor little mites, many of them came in the borrowed plumes of a neighbour's child, which revealed rather than hid their own ragged clothing. We were informed by the Matron that owing to the strikes their condition was far worse than in previous years. Every mother and baby in the Home and on the District received a splendid gift of clothes. The wards were daintily decorated. In some the little white cots were outlined with wreaths of silver-leaved holly. They contained the sweetest babies, for which the East End is not to be beaten. Here again we were told that turkey and plum-pudding agreed excellently well with mother and child. On New Year's Eve the Sisters are entertaining the nurses to a fancy dress ball. The cost of the costume is not to exceed 2s. 6d.

WEST HAM AND EASTERN GENERAL HOSPITAL.

This kept its festival on Christmas Eve, and all thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The men's ward looked bright and cheerful, the general scheme was red, which, with the scarlet jackets of the patients, had a very good effect. The women's surgical ward, which we were informed was fitted up by the Duchess of Marlborough, is decorated with white enamel paint and bright blue tiles. The children's ward is of similar design. In the latter miniature Teddy Bears depended from every point of the lamp-shades, and in the centre, hung from the ceiling, was a large floral circle, in which sat a fairy. The children were fairly bubbling with Christmas jollity, and sang many little songs for our benefit, "Leonard" being especially successful in "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star."

H. H.

KELLING SANATORIUM HONOURED.

The Queen honoured Kelling Sanatorium, Norfolk, with a visit during her stay at Holkham, and subsequently intimated her pleasure to become the patroness of the Institution.

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