

## ECHOES OF SANTA CLAUS.

All through this week and next Santa Claus will hold his revels in hospital. Many of the patients had their fun and festivities on Christmas Day—but parties for the staff—and usually the disrobing of Christmas trees come later. We all know how children love to keep the glistening tree in sight for days—and long and long at the same time to have it rifled of the gifts to be theirs. It really is a sort of process of eating your cake and having it too.

It would be quite impossible in our limited space to do justice to all the delightful parties arranged.

Queen Amelie of Portugal is a great friend to the West London Hospital, and sent gifts to the patients. She also visited the hospital on Sunday to hear Carols sung by St. Paul's Church Choir, and spoke kind words to every patient.

The London Homœopathic Hospital has many ardent supporters. Each female patient received a pound of tea from an anonymous friend. The special feature of the decorations was the King Edward VII Ward, which was turned into a beautiful rose garden. The Durning Ward was resplendent with a beautiful German Star. On Tuesday the Christmas tree in Queen Alexandra and Barton Wards gave immense delight.

At the Chelsea Hospital for Women the festivities are manifold—on Christmas morning special gifts and breakfast, and later more gifts and a special Dinner. The ladies committee provided tea for the patients on the 27th, during which the Choir boys of St. Peter's, Cranley Gardens, sang carols most charmingly. On the 29th the Nurses entertained their friends with musical sketches, and on the 3rd inst. the entertainment takes place which the Ladies Committee arranges for the patients. The Wards and corridors were beautifully decorated.

Nowhere has Christmas been more happily spent than at the West Ham and Eastern General Hospital, which serves so wide and poor an area. The nurses were specially happy in the selection and arrangement of plants and flowers, and there were gifts for everyone. The work of this useful hospital is growing out of all proportion to its income, and the plea for increased support should have a generous response.

At Guy's Hospital on December 30th, the Nurses' handsome sitting-room was transformed into a bower of loveliness for the entertainment given on the invitation of the Matron and nursing staff. By a gentle stretch of the imagination, we might have believed ourselves to be in the flowery land of Japan. Garlands of pink chrysanthemums hung in lines from the Chinese lanterns across the room; branches of the flowering almond tree were profusely distributed about the room, making a pretty contrast with the deep red curtains.

A generous and varied programme was provided by the nurses, charmingly attired in Japan's national costume.

"The Tea Song," "The Big Bamboo," and "The Amorous Goldfish," were all songs of the country, sung and acted in costume. A little play, entitled "My Dear Little Wife," won great applause; indeed, so did every item of the programme. A minuet and an Irish jig were danced very gracefully. A toy symphony, in which most of the "Japanese" ladies took place, brought the musical part of the entertainment to a close. Dancing in the large dining hall followed, the gay costumes making quite a charming riot of colour.

All the nurses, in uniform and out of it, appeared to enjoy themselves as thoroughly as hospital nurses always do on these occasions.

The Matron threw herself heartily into the enjoyment of her nurses, while playing the part of hostess to her numerous guests very graciously. Dainty refreshments were served at the close of a very enjoyable evening.

Hundreds of people responded to the invitation of the Chairman of the Marylebone Infirmary Committee, Miss M. E. Broadbent, and the Marylebone Board of Guardians, to inspect the establishment at Notting Hill on Tuesday last. Tea was served in an empty ward, at little tables, and the Matron, Miss Cockrell, and the Sisters were indefatigable in looking after the welfare of the guests. In the wards everything was very gay and festive. Much greenery in hospital and infirmary wards is now a thing of the past, but a charming effect was produced by the double row of shaded gas brackets up the centre of each ward, the colours favoured being pink, crimson, mauve, blue, and maize. In many instances the uncompromising central standard had become a thing of beauty, bearing graceful almond or peach blossoms.

The babies' ward was specially attractive. Coated with aluminium paint and with shining brass knobs, the cots suggested an opulence which so far has not been the fate of their tiny inmates, who looked very sweet in their cosy white jackets bordered with blue. Space only permits of the briefest reference to the theatre, which has just been renovated. It is one of which any institution might be proud.

## PROMOTION FOR "NIGHTINGALES."

Four of the twelve largest London Hospitals have changed Matrons during the year. Miss Lloyd Still, from Middlesex, succeeded Miss Hamilton at St. Thomas; Miss Montgomery, from Addenbrooke's, Cambridge, was appointed at Middlesex; Miss Darbyshire, from Derby, succeeded Miss Davis at St. Mary's, and Miss Young was appointed Matron of Westminster Hospital upon the resignation of Miss Cavé. The Nightingale School scored most of the honours, and is to be congratulated upon the promotion of its pupils. "A Nightingale" was naturally selected for the Matronship of St. Thomas's Hospital, and thus maintains its prestige as a Training School.

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