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EDITORIAL.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.

"Ring and swing,
Bells of joy! On morning's wing
Send the song of praise abroad!
With a sound of broken chains
Tell the nations that He reigns,
Who alone is Lord and God."

This issue of the JOURNAL brings to our readers the best wishes of the Editor for Christmas.

The season of peace and goodwill is this year overshadowed by the gloom of war, and the thoughts of all are concentrated on what may be done to lighten that shadow, and to bring comfort and peace to those upon whom it falls.

To the brave sailors and soldiers in whose hands rests the defence—the very existence—of the Empire, all hearts go out, and there are none of them who will not receive a reminder that the Nation's thoughts are with them, for to every man will go the Princess Mary's Christmas gift, besides many others from relatives and friends.

At home, as we state elsewhere, steps are being taken to make the day a festive one for men home from the front and in hospital, and besides, we have with us the wives and children of our soldiers who need our friendship, and the thousands of Belgian refugees whom we hope to make understand something of the warmth and joy of a British Christmas.

But, while we expend our energies and thoughts in these directions we must not forget that they make special demands upon us, and that the many charities which have claims on us at this season must not suffer. The voluntary hospitals, and especially the children's hospitals, need our help not less but more just now, and we all know many charities, and many friends and neighbours,

to whom it is our custom to send tokens of goodwill for Christmas and the New Year. As far as possible it should be our aim to send our usual gifts, for any departure from our ordinary course means hardship for some one, whether because these gifts are not forthcoming, or because those who provide them and depend upon our support are thrown out of employment. "Presents as usual," should be our aim.

To our many friends abroad our thoughts go out in heartfelt good wishes, and we are sure, so strong is the affinity between the nurses of the various nations, that we have theirs also, and that feelings of good will and sympathy are making themselves felt across the oceans which divide us.

A very special message goes out from this JOURNAL to the hundreds of trained nurses who are at work in hospitals at home and abroad, endeavouring to repair the ravages made by war in the ranks of our fighting men, to restore them as far as may be to health, physically and mentally, to preserve limbs, which without constant skilled care must be lost, and to bring to the wards that atmosphere of disciplined work, cheerfulness and hope, which is one of the best assets in dealing with the sick.

Knowing, as we know well, the devotion to duty, and to the interests of their patients, of the members of our profession, we are confident that in conjunction with the skilled treatment given by the profession of medicine the sick and wounded of our Navy and Army have every possible chance, when in their care; and because this is so, and because our sailors and soldiers realize the value of their skilled services, we claim for every one of those injured in this war the trained care of the profession which, without measuring the work it gives against the very small material reward which it receives, renders invaluable services to all who need them.

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