

*Private Staff Nurses.*—These are at present paid £30 the first year, rising to £45 by £5 yearly. We suggest that they start at £35, and rise by £5 to £50.

*Sisters.*—Ward sisters start at £30, and rise £5 a year to £40. We suggest they start at £40, and rise to £50 by £5 a year.

When the rank of sister has been reached the new scale holds out further increase of salary. Under ordinary circumstances the pay can be £60, and for each further six years £5 is added. For special qualifications, too, there is further pay. Thus, the attainment of the certificate of the Central Midwives Board carries another £5 with it, and in such positions as the head sister of, say, electric or light treatment, the possibilities now run up to £100 a year.

It will be interesting to note what effect these increased salaries at the London Hospital will have on the pay of hospital nurses generally.

#### A CHRISTMAS GIFT.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks the sum of ten shillings sent anonymously as a Christmas gift for Nurse N., the invalid to whom the readers of this journal make an allowance of 6s. a week. We cannot send an official receipt for the money, as no name or address are enclosed, but the gift will be forwarded to Nurse N., and will be received with gratitude and pleasure, we feel sure.

#### QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S LYING-IN HOSPITAL.

The demands on the assistance of Queen Charlotte's Lying-In Hospital, Marylebone Road, London, N.W., during the present year have been greater than ever before, owing to the fact that the hospital is admitting a great number of the wives of our soldiers and sailors, as well as Belgian and other refugees. Since the outbreak of war, over 3,000 wives of our soldiers and sailors have either been received into the hospital, or attended in their own homes. Any reduction in the number of beds for patients would be little short of a calamity, yet it is difficult to see how the hospital can continue its work on the present scale unless substantial additional support is forthcoming. There is at present a debt of about £5,000 on the General Maintenance Account.

The hospital has just opened a new (temporary) building adjoining the hospital for the Ante-Natal Department, where this most important work will be carried on under more favourable conditions than formerly. An Infant Consultation Centre is also being established.

When so many lives are being laid down in the service of the country, it is more than ever necessary to save the children, and Queen Charlotte's Hospital deserves the liberal support of the public to enable it to carry on its increasing and valuable work satisfactorily.

#### "WHATSOEVER WE ASK."

Jackie, aged two, was already something of a personage in the unfashionable locality where he resided. And Jackie was sick. He had spent all the season "fruitin' and 'oppin'" and had ailed nothing. True he had not altogether appreciated the beautiful surroundings and fresh air, but had cried to his Mother for his "ole black shawl and a walk in the Ole Kent Road."

Of course, a visit of condolence must be paid to his pretty red-haired mother with the surprisingly white neck, of whom it was difficult to believe that she was possessed of three other children of larger growth.

We were sorry to learn that Jackie was ill.

"Yes, would we come upstairs."

It was Sunday and a table was laid for tea in the room that served during the winter for both bedroom and sitting-room.

In spite of its combined uses and the fact that it was inhabited by mother and four children, its air of comfort and cheerfulness made us feel inferior.

Doing duty for a tablecloth, were some sheets of rose-pink paper, the ultimate destination of which was to complete the coloured festooning of the ceiling, it being only a short period before Christmas. There were various little inexpensive treats on the table in honour of Sunday. A large double bed occupied one side of the room, on which little Jackie lay sleeping off the effects of convulsions.

Yes, he was all right up to last night, when " 'e 'ad a fit." Of course, mother sat up with him till about three o'clock, when " 'e 'ad another."

The other three children were sleeping all around her and mother felt alone and afraid for little Jackie.

Florrie aged four was the most accessible to her elbow. 'Ere, Florrie, wake up and pray for little Jackie."

"All yight, Mummy. Please God make little Jackie better."

"Then," says little mother, " 'e gives a little cough and is better directly. You're a good little gal, Florrie," I says.

"Does God love me, Mummy?"

"Yes, my dear, 'E do."

"Will 'E send me a noo frock and pinny for Christmas."

"Would you like one trimmed wiv gold?" says little mother with mild sarcasm.

"No, wiv ribbons."

Little mother had taken Jackie to the doctor's in the morning, and 'e says, "next time," 'e says, "put 'im in a 'ot bath," 'e says.

"That's all very well, but when you've only got the one saucepan and the rabbit stoo'in' in that for the Sunday's dinner, it makes things a bit awkward, don't it? You see, I feel a bit more responsible for Jackie than the other three, 'is father joined up long before 'e was born.

Before leaving, we were invited to see the best parlour, a truly marvellous room, with its innumerable little ornaments and portraits.

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