

## THE MATRON OF THE PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL AND HER CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS.

We have pleasure in reproducing this week a photograph of Miss Bickerton, R.R.C., Matron of the Prince of Wales General Hospital, Tottenham. She is well known to many members of the R.B.N.A., and is a member of its General Council and Executive Committee.

Miss Bickerton is a very able administrator and one who certainly possesses the gift of keeping the machinery of hospital administration running very smoothly. She and her nurses are obviously the best of good comrades, while it is equally evident that feelings of much admiration and friendship, on the part of the nurses for their Matron, never lead them to forget the respect due to her as their superior officer. In quite another rôle, however, Miss Bickerton excels—that of hostess. Few happier gatherings can be imagined than those at the Hospital during the Christmas season.

Festivities commenced last Christmas morning with gifts to the patients, received by each in the orthodox manner—in their stockings. Later there were services in the wards, and at noon a turkey appeared in each with all the other attributes of a real Christmas dinner. Later the Medical and Nursing staffs had dinner in the nurses' dining hall. In the afternoon there was an entertainment in each ward and the medical and nursing staffs took tea in their own wards later. The day finished with a rehearsal performance by the nurses' entertainment party, preparatory to a performance in the wards next day for the benefit of patients

and their friends. On the 27th the nurses gave an entertainment to the patients' children, and the former had a fancy dress dance in the evening. On Monday, the 29th, the out-patients of the hospital were entertained to a musical tea, when the entertainment was given in the form of choruses, songs and recitations followed by a Christmas Tree. In the evening the domestic staff and porters had their entertainment, to which they were permitted to invite friends. On New Year's Day came the farewell party to nurses then completing their training, and on the following day

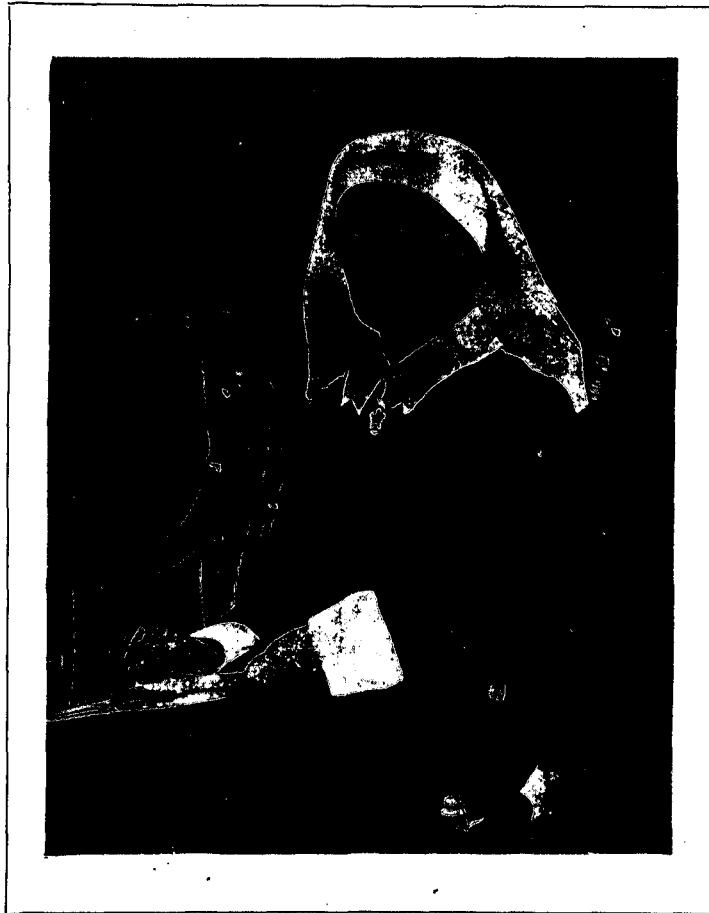
the Sisters gave a tea to the whole staff, followed by a fancy dress dance in the nurses' sitting-room.

We cannot close the account of these Christmas festivities without referring to the originality and taste displayed in the decorations and the clever way in which heating apparatus and somewhat incongruous surgical appliances attached here and there to the beds were adorned to bring them into harmony with the scheme of decoration. The children's ward was a veritable fairyland and a curly-headed youngster in the first bed gave us a very spontaneous welcome in his joyous little treble as we entered. At the head of each

little bed was a dainty water-colour sketch by one of the nurses illustrative of one or other of the old-time fairy tales that are yet ever new with each generation of children.

We congratulate Miss Bickerton on the success of her Christmas celebrations and upon the splendid progress and success which the hospital has made under her able administration.

ISABEL MACDONALD,  
Secretary to the Corporation.  
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MISS BICKERTON, R.R.C.,  
Matron of the Prince of Wales Hospital.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)