

"Golly! I 'ope mine 'ull be a knife or an ingine." And the small bullet head raised itself with an effort from its pillow to peer at the mysterious corner where Sister was so intent on her fascinating occupation.

"Last year"—he had once more become "Mr. James Brarn"—"I 'ad a gold watch an' 'eaps of suverings."

Sister's voice proclaimed prayers at this point, and after singing "While Shepherds Watched," silence fell on the long ward.

In the dancing firelight the white beds looked ghostly and the fitting figures of the silent nurses as they passed from bed to bed became unreal and as full of possibilities as Santa Claus himself.

By "James Brarn's" bed there came and sat the poorly-clad figure of his mother, who had brought in his clean (*sic*) towel and shirt.

"Be a good boy, Jimmy, and be 'ave yerself. I'm not sayin' as you wasn't naughty to 'ang on the trams so often as I've telled yer not to do it, but in the manner of speakin' its a good thing as you done it, for there ain't no charnst of much Chrismis at 'ome, with yer pore father never 'issel since the war, and the folks as 'e fought for 'ave forget seemin'ly. Anyways, you stand to 'ave a good time in this 'ere beautiful plice."

It was Night Sister who later was arrested by the sound of stifled sobbing, as she passed by "James Brarn's" bed.

"Why, Jimmy," she said gently (she was an understanding person), "what's the matter? You mustn't cry. Its Christmas to-morrow, and such a lovely time as you will have."

But the bedclothes were pulled close over the stubborn bullet head. "I want my mummy," sobbed little Jimmy Brown.

H. H.

LEAGUE NEWS.

The winter General Meeting of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses will take place on December 11th, the Business Meeting at 2.30 p.m., after which Dr. Justina Wilson will give a short lecture on Massage and Electrical Therapeutics.

The social gathering will be held in the Nurses' Sitting Room, when sweet music will be rendered by members of the Nursing Staff, arranged by Miss Firth. Invitations to be present have, we learn, been sent to Miss Waters and the International Nursing Students now studying at King's College for Women, and it is hoped quite a number will be accepted. They will, we feel sure, be deeply interested in visiting the oldest Royal Hospital in the United Kingdom, which has been busy with the art of healing since the year 1123.

WORD FOR THE WEEK.

Sir, from my dear old home you come,
And all its glories you can name;
Oh, tell me—has the winter plum
Yet blossomed o'er the window frame?

An Ancient Chinese Poet.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

As Christmas approaches the question becomes paramount where can we shop to the best advantage in order to purchase those gifts which one and all of us desire to make, at this time, as tokens of good will and affection, and for hospitals and infirmaries in order that the patients, and especially the children, may have the best of good times? The question is easy of solution for readers of this JOURNAL.

CHRISTMAS BAZAARS.

MESSRS. E. & R. GARROULD, LTD.

It is always with pleasurable anticipation that we visit the bazaar of Messrs. Garrould, at 150 Edgware Road, W., and the anticipation materialises, for there are to be found here gifts for all sorts and conditions of people, while the child whose tastes could not be satisfied here must be hard to please. Added to which "British made" goods are, we note with pleasure, much in evidence. Thus there are delightful boxes of "British made" toy soldiers, and anyone who would buy toy soldiers "made in Germany" must indeed be lacking in the first elements of patriotism. Amongst mechanical toys there is a motor bus reproduced to the life, "ads" and all—"Mothers nurse your babies," Nestle's, Bovril and so forth.

Some folding wooden chairs, extremely well made, and competent to bear any weight up to 8 stone, though they are primarily intended for quite small children, are wonderfully cheap at 2s. 6d., and there are tables to correspond at the same price. Noah's Arks range from 1s. 3½d. to 50s., tea sets from 2s. 11½d. to 9s. 11d., dolls made in Lord Roberts' Memorial Workshops, 8s. 11d., 12s. 11d. and 15s. 11d. A charming doll's house, designed like a bungalow, 18s. 6d.; children's books, annuals, toy books, and prizes at all prices, humming tops at 10½d.; calendars, Christmas cards, flags, Christmas stockings bulging with toys and sweets. What more can the heart of a child desire?

MESSRS. GAYLER & POPE, LTD.

Those who visit the establishment of Messrs. Gayler & Pope, at 112-117, High Street, Marylebone (and how handy it is to hospitals and nursing homes), will be charmed with the varied selection which awaits them. In the Christmas bazaar, most attractively set out, are to be found not only toys in abundance, but the "trimmings" which give so festive an appearance to a Christmas party. Japanese lanterns at 2½d. and 4½d., trails of silvery paper, crackers from 1s. 6½d. a box, and many things besides. The Tiny Tots office, "just like daddy's" at 1s. 11½d. and a "printing set" at 1s. 0½d., will occupy and educate the embryo business man and woman; coloured crayons, six in a box, for 1s. 6½d., paint boxes from 8d., plasticine 8½d. a box, play wax 2s. 11d., and A.B.C. blocks at 1s. 11d. are also much to be commended. There is a tempting profusion of Teddy Bears from 2s. 11d., and other

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)