

GLIMPSES OF CHRISTMAS.

As usual, the house staffs and nursing staffs in the hospitals combined to give the patients the best of good times at Christmas. Carols in the wards, Christmas-trees for the children, parties for the out-patients; and Father Christmas and Santa Claus, with the help of fairies, disposed of a prodigious amount of gifts from the trees. Dinner on Christmas Day brought to mind the pre-war days when rationing was unknown, and the war cloud was "no bigger than a man's hand" on the horizon.

Typical amongst such entertainments was that at the London Temperance Hospital. The tree on Monday evening in the Children's Ward was a dream of delight, and on Tuesday, at the entertainment given in the Out-patient Hall, the Nursing Staff excelled themselves in the two sketches, most amusingly given, "Such is Fame" and "No Servants." The chorus "Where my caravan has rested" was received, as it deserved, with much enthusiasm. Mr. Douglas Graeme (we seemed to recognise the distinguished senior surgeon under this pseudonym) brought down the house as "A Visitor from America," and his apt topical allusions to members of the nursing staff. The character songs (in costume) of England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales were greatly appreciated, and a most enjoyable entertainment was brought to a conclusion with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" and God Save the King. Before the company dispersed—the visitors to their homes, the nurses to their wards, the patients to their beds—the Chairman, Major Rigg, O.B.E., M.A., on behalf of those present tendered a hearty vote of thanks to the Sisters and Nursing Staff for their talented performance, to the Matron (Miss K. A. Smith, R.R.C.) for her sympathy, to the Senior Surgeon (Mr. Herbert J. Paterson, M.S., C.B.E.) for his important contribution to the fun. This was seconded by Mr. Deputy Brough—who said he had had no idea that there was so much histrionic talent amongst the nursing staff—and carried by acclamation.

CHRISTMAS AT THE ROYAL INFIRMARY, GLASGOW.

Festivities took place on different days in every ward, with entertainments and concerts provided by the resident doctors and students, assisted by the nurses. The wards were beautifully decorated with evergreens and lamp-

shades of every tint, and looked like fairyland. A Christmas tree glistening with tinsel and lights and loaded with presents was fixed in the centre of each ward. Delightful teas, presided over by the Sister, were dispensed in every ward before the entertainment began, attended by the chief surgeon or physician and his assistants, the resident doctors, and many friends, including the Superintendent, Dr. J. Maxtone Thom, and the Matron, Miss Steuart Donaldson.

On Christmas Eve Father Christmas visited the wards and filled the patients' stockings with gifts and toys, and great was the joy and fun early on Christmas morning. The patients' dinner takes place on New Year's Day.

On Monday the night nurses' Christmas dinner, consisting of turkey and plum pudding and dessert, was presided over by the Matron at 8.30 a.m., and 80 nurses sat down. At 1.30 all the day nurses, numbering 180, gathered in the big dining hall, where Matron again presided, while the wards were looked after by the residents, students, and sisters. Speeches were made, and everyone was happy. At 7.30 p.m. the Sisters' dinner was held in the board room, at which the Matron and her assistants were present, everything being most exquisitely served. Toasts were drunk, and yet another example of the usefulness of the corporate spirit was exhibited.

Every morning before daybreak a choir of picked nurses to the number of 50, conducted by the Matron, visited the wards and sang carols, to the great delight of the patients, who sent urgent messages to the nurses "to come again, please."

The spirit of comradeship and goodwill was most marked, and the nurses, on whom much extra work fell, were yet glad to have been able to cheer and uplift the sad and suffering in this great Infirmary.

The little out-patient children were not forgotten by Father Christmas, and the delight with which they eagerly clutched the toys and books showed how needed is the spirit of love and sympathy in this crowded, poverty-stricken area of a big industrial town, where unemployment is so prevalent.

There are still numerous entertainments to be given, including the dinner for the domestic and male staff, and culminating in the New Year's gathering, when the Board of Management meet the Nursing Staff. There is also January 24th to look forward to, when a delightful dance for the nurses has been arranged by Sir John and Lady Reid in the Trades Hall.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)