

not escaped the prevailing epidemic, and one ward was devoted entirely to nurses suffering from influenza, of whom no less than 21 were warded that day.

In these days, profuse greenery is no longer used as a decoration, but the result is gain rather than loss. Monotonous brown dados and walls coloured with a view to durability rather than beauty have given place to dados of cream or primrose colour with walls and ceilings painted white, or other shades reflecting light and disseminating cheerfulness. And Sisters have taken to studying colour schemes and appear in the laundry with a demand that their screen-covers shall be dyed a colour that will harmonize or contrast pleasantly with the walls of their wards, and shades and flowers combine to make a perfect whole.

In one ward all the shades on the lights were faintly tinted and bore blue birds, but orange was a colour very popular with the Sisters this year.

In the Babies' Ward were all the infants under two, those above that age were promoted to the Children's Ward proper. The little boys who were up seemed sturdy, well-disciplined little chaps, who stood to attention and saluted the Matron when she spoke to them on going into the ward; but many in bed looked very acutely ill.

The older people seemed extremely happy and cheerful. If only Miss Louisa Twining, Miss Agnes Jones, and some of the pioneers who fought such a difficult fight to get adequate nursing for Poor-Law patients, could visit our great infirmaries now they would see of the travail of their souls and be satisfied.

A question elicited that the Syllabus of Nursing Education recommended by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales has no terrors for the authorities of St. Marylebone Infirmary, for they are already accustomed to teaching all that it contains "probably more." The reputation of the Infirmary as a Training School for nurses has long since been well established, and, with the direction of their training in the capable hands of Dr. Hood, the Medical Superintendent, and Miss S. J. Cockrell, the Matron, we do not doubt that the trainees of the school will comport themselves with credit, when the period of grace for Registration is over, and the nurses of the future obtain admission to the State Register by the one portal of the State Examination.

#### ARTISTIC TALENT AT THE PRINCE OF WALES' HOSPITAL.

The Prince of Wales' General Hospital, Tottenham, kept high festival all last week, the delightful programme being given no less than four times, in order that a variety of audiences might participate in the entertainment prepared with so much care by the Nursing Staff, and, we may add, with some difficulty also, for no rehearsal took place before 9.30 p.m.

The festivities ended on Saturday, December 31st, with the entertainment of the Out-patient Old People and others, followed by tea for the Nurses' League.

The play, "The Dream," an Eastern fantasy in three acts, written and arranged by Sister Fowler, was beautifully designed and produced, and well deserved its reception. The choruses by "The Troupe" were given with precision and vim, and Nurse Fairchild gave much pleasure by her violin solos. Then there were songs by Sister Garrard, recitations by Nurse Evans, and the dancing of Sisters Fowler and Kinton, as Harlequin and Columbine, was greatly enjoyed and warmly applauded.

The sketch, "The Area Belle," a farce in one act, caused great amusement. Penelope (the Area Belle) was acted by Nurse Morgan, who, in the supposed absence of "The Missus," extended the hospitality of the kitchen to "Pitcher" (Nurse Davies) in the Police, and "Tosser" (Sister Moase), in the Grenadier Guards. The unexpected return of "The Missus" caused, as may be imagined, much confusion. Neither Pitcher nor Tosser, however, succeeded in securing the affections of Penelope, whose choice fell on Walter Chalks, a milkman. The Prince of Wales Hospital certainly has its share of histrionic talent.

After the entertainment came the Christmas Tree, beautifully decorated and loaded with all kinds of desirable gifts for old and young, dispensed by Father Christmas.

In addition to the tree there was an enormous stocking.

The presentation of gifts was very well arranged. The tree, Father Christmas, the Matron, Miss E. T. Bickerton, and one or two Sisters assisting, were in the centre of a hollow square, everyone marched past, and Father Christmas handed each a present in turn—blotters, brooches, beads, &c., for father and mother; trumpets, drums, boats, and other delights for the boys, and dolls and toys of various kinds for the girls. Everyone had something suitable; no one could be overlooked; and when the apparently endless stream of recipients had at length come to an end there were gifts and to spare left over.

The nursing staff and their guests then adjourned to the Nurses' sitting-room, where tea was set out. Everything looked most festive, the predominant colour in the decorations of the tables being crimson, which showed up to great advantage against the green walls. Suspended across the bow window was a huge cracker, also crimson. Everyone was by that time ready to do full justice to the good things provided, and it was a happy and gay ending to a most enjoyable afternoon.

The wards which were on view were very full, very busy, and very festive. In the Children's Ward Sister Fowler had used her talents with excellent effect, and over each cot a beautiful oval water-colour drawing was placed on the wall, a very original form of decoration, which received the admiration it deserved.

Our visits to hospitals this Christmas have deepened our conviction of the large amount of musical, theatrical, and artistic talent possessed by the members of the nursing profession.

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