

of all sorts, and coffee was followed by very old liqueurs. Certainly Mrs. Temple, when she entertains her comrades of other years, does so with splendid hospitality.

It was agreed that there should be four toasts only at dinner, but a good many were added to these. The "Health of His Majesty" was proposed by Miss Macdonald, and Miss Child, R.R.C., proposed the "Health of Her Royal Highness Princess Christian, President of the Royal British Nurses' Association"; she spoke of the debt which nurses, particularly those of the R.B.N.A., owe to Her Royal Highness for her never-failing help and sympathy. Miss Gilligan then proposed the health of Sir Harold and Lady Boulton, and expressed warm appreciation of their kindness in connection with our beautiful club. Miss Liddiatt proposed the toast of "Mrs. Temple," and moved that the thanks of the guests be sent to her for the delightful entertainment she had given them on this Christmas night.

Miss Gordon-Wright then proposed the health of the Secretary, who thought that she had long ago forgotten how to blush until Members and Staff made the dining-room ring to the strains of "She's a Jolly Good Fellow." Miss Macdonald proposed the health of the Members of the R.B.N.A., and then Miss Wharton had a happy inspiration, and rose to toast the Association's guests—the children. Mrs. Richardson added a pretty addition to this toast when she mentioned their mother far across the seas. Little Blue Coat Boy needed no second bidding to rise and make his maiden speech, which was "well received." Perhaps it was the prettiest of the evening this "Thank you for Lucy and me," in the little childish treble. The health of Miss Glover, proposed by Mrs. Richardson, was warmly received. Mrs. Richardson proposed the health of Cook and the Staff of the R.B.N.A. Club, and referred to the excellence of the cooking and the quickness and dignity with which dinner had been served. Miss Macdonald said that there was just one more toast she would like to have—one to Members across the seas. Very many letters had been received from these within the last few days, and she was sure they would like to be specially remembered to-night. Miss Child, in replying, said that she was glad such a toast had been given. In every land she had visited she had met Members of the R.B.N.A., and she had been in no hospital in South Africa where it was not represented by someone. Miss Rowan next proposed the health of "All absent friends," which brought the series of toasts to a close, luckily for Blue Coat Boy who, having valiantly insisted in draining his first tumbler to the health of His Majesty, consequently found the remaining toasts a trifle burdensome. It was much more interesting to gallantly make a tour of the room to light the ladies' cigarettes and to confide to them his entire approval of the methods of keeping Christmas at Queen's Gate, and his relief that Santa Claus had "spotted" a certain yellow stocking quite early in the morning. Later, in the drawing-room, three hearty cheers were

given for Miss Liddiatt for all realised that, but for the hot table she so generously gifted to the Club some months ago, the temperature of the turkey might have fallen below normal before it reached the last member of a party of thirty-six.

To the drawing-room most of the guests adjourned with the avowed intention to enjoy an evening's bridge, but only one "set" could be collected, for nearly everyone decided to dance, while on one side of the fire a small group listened to Miss Giffen as she told one tale from ghostland after another; surely no one has ever seen so many ghosts as she! At ten o'clock several guests felt that they really must go home, and we thought we had reached the "terminus" when the staff were called up and all joined hands and sang "Auld Lang Syne," but these guests promptly forgot all about going home except one who got into her wraps and was forthwith buttonholed by one after another and lectured upon the folly of early hours. Then old time games started, in which everyone took part. Nurses who had gone to bed dressed again, and rejoined the company. At midnight, while dancing Sir Roger de Coverley, lights began to play upon the windows, and we looked out to find two stalwart police throwing their flashlights across to enjoy a glimpse of how nurses can keep Christmas. Somehow this brought a realisation of the flight of time, and the lady in the wraps was hustled off to get a taxi of any sort from anywhere, and Christmas, 1922, slipped into the stillness of the past.

THE LAST DAY OF THE OLD YEAR.

Members are reminded that on Sunday the 31st inst., we are to entertain the early Members of the Corporation at 3.45 p.m., and we shall be glad if any of the younger Members will come along and help on this occasion, as our staff is reduced on Sunday afternoon. Small subscriptions towards the cost of the entertainment will be gratefully received by the Secretary.

We have issued individual invitations to the early members, but if any have been omitted, who would care to come, we shall indeed be most happy to see them.

OFFICIAL NEWS OF THE R.B.N.A.

Nurses are reminded that they can get all intimations and reports regarding their Association through the medium of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. The meetings and other fixtures of the Association are very numerous now and it is impossible for the Secretary to send out individual notice of each. Nor is it possible for the Members to follow the activities of the Association unless they avail themselves of the preferential terms offered to them for doing so, and order the Journal, price 8s. 8d. per annum, from the Manager, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.1.

ISABEL MACDONALD,
Secretary of the Corporation.

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