

small fingers itched to touch the masses of gaily coloured balloons that festooned the walls. As time moved on childish curiosity overcame good manners and many an intrepid toddler had to be rescued from having a closer inspection, and even a sly feel of the presents on the tree. The air of festivity was added to by a Band who helped to speed the time for us, by playing Christmas carols and songs. At last the great moment arrived, his sleigh heralded by blasts on horns, Father Christmas magnificent in red cloak, and of course flowing white beard, drove slowly into the centre of the Hall, amid the children's squeals of delight, alighted from his sleigh and started to distribute the gifts. The joy apparent to us all, on the faces of the small recipients, must have repaid a thousandfold, those who had done so much towards making this Children's Party a success, not forgetting Mr. Auger and employees of 'B' shift whose personal contribution of toys was by no means small and very greatly appreciated.

Father Christmas and his assistants having completed their happy task, drove away again, but not before promising us a return visit next year! The Band entertained us once again, whilst we awaited the surprise item of the Party. A small pony, slowly drew a glistening white and gold coach into the centre of the Hall, and after circling the Christmas Tree, the door opened, and out stepped Cinderella, complete in fairy-tale dress and little silver slippers, that shimmered under the lights. Accompanied she sang to us a number of charming songs. After bidding Cinderella, and of course the pony a reluctant "Goodbye," members of the Band entertained us. A charming tap-dance was performed for us

by three little girls, accompanied by their father, and many were the admiring glances given to a very sweet little Fairy who had the loveliest little voice. The mascot of the Band claimed his share of the admiration also, by playing for us. The surprise of Cinderella, and this totally unexpected entertainment, for all of which, we are once again in debt to the assistance of a few employees of Messrs. Tate & Lyle and other friends, through the person of Mr. Auger, seemed to soften the departure of Father Christmas for the little ones and maintain the party atmosphere, until we proceeded with our small friends to enjoy yet another Christmas Tea.

Back in the Wards, the ambulant patients were giving graphic descriptions of the Party to their less fortunate companions in bed. After tea, the visitors came around the Wards, lit now by the soft glow of the fairy lights on the trees. Soon, our little friends, now sleepy, but radiantly happy, were escorted home, many clasping tightly the new doll or toy they had received from Father Christmas.

So Christmas, so long awaited, and alas of such short duration was nearly over, but surely we too, as well as the

children, must have also received a gift—Christmas is the birthday of the Prince of Peace, who was also the Great Healer, and as members of a profession, the aim of which is to save and prolong life, surely this time must appeal to us greatly, not merely as a period of rejoicing and physical happiness, but as one of spiritual happiness and rebirth. Surely, the Christ Child, whose love for Mankind was so great, must have a special place in His Heart for the Suffering, and realising how deeply we are dependent on Him, and that without His aid, our work would be doomed to failure, and so many of our patients to despair, He will give to us the gift of perseverance, and success, for the coming year.

ANNE P. MORONEY.

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The tiny pony who gladdened the hearts of small children at Christmas.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)