

Father Christmas; "King and Queen of Hearts," Nurse Hartnell and Nurse Rackham; "Knave of Hearts," Mr. F. H. Lee; "Little Miss Muffit," Sister Rachel; "Jack and Jill," Nurse Simpson and Nurse Larkham; "Dame Trot" and "Mother Hubbard," Nurse Vogen and Nurse Lawson; "Little Jack Horner" and "Little Tom Tucker," Nurse Jennings and Nurse Voysey; "Red Riding Hood," and "Cinderella," Nurse Dixon and Nurse Davies; "Mary, Mary, quite contrary" and "Little Bo-peep," Nurse Shepherd and Nurse Turnell. The Matron, Miss BEACHCROFT took a personal and sympathetic interest in the happiness of every inmate, and all received useful gifts from the numerous friends of the Institution.

CHRISTMAS DAY at the Chelsea Infirmary was appropriately ushered in by carols, which were sung by a party of Nurses at the door of each ward. All were astir early to give the finishing touches to decorations, which this year seem to be more than usually artistic. Indeed, each year seems to strike some unsuspected depth of ingenuity of native talent, called forth largely by the friendly rivalry existing between each ward as to who shall achieve the greatest measures of success. Patients and Nurses are equally interested in the result, and strict secrecy is maintained as to the nature and prevailing tint of the various decorations. Each ward has its colour, indicated primarily by the beautifully designed shades which are fixed on every gas-burner, and from which everything else takes its tone. Very soft and pretty is the effect at night, giving quite a fairyland appearance to the Infirmary. It would be invidious, perhaps, to single out any particular ward, but, *primus inter pares*, may be mentioned the children's ward, which has always an attraction peculiar to itself. A huge Christmas tree, temptingly laden with "Truth" and other toys, stood in one corner, while in another a large doll's house, made a good background to a lawn, on which a garden party, consisting of dolls, was cleverly represented. Little Red Riding Hood was in evidence, in the act of climbing a rustic style; a pretty copse of frosted fir trees behind her and a cunningly devised duck pond, "made of *real* water," as the children gleefully pointed out, in front. The pillars down the centre of the ward were prettily draped in green and red muslin, encircled with sprays of ivy and evergreen. The windows and fire-places were similarly dressed. The children made a pleasing harmony in their picturesque red frocks, white-checked muslin pinafores, confined at the waist with a broad red band, while the little ones in bed were provided with long scarlet flannel gowns and red woollen socks—an efficient protection against cold or exposure. Punctually at 12 o'clock the dinners were served, and ample justice was done

to the prime joints and excellent plum puddings that were supplied without stint to those who were able to partake of them. There were chickens and jelly for the more delicate appetites, of course, but all who might safely indulge did so, and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Ginger beer or lemonade was allowed to each person, and a liberal dessert of apples, oranges, grapes and nuts. After dinner visiting was permitted between the different wards, till tea time, when all returned, and after another good meal, drew round the fires of their respective dayrooms and indulged in songs and recitations till 9 o'clock, when all dispersed to bed, very tired, but very pleased with their Christmas Day.

THE ingredients of the patients' plum puddings at Chelsea Infirmary were as follows:—56 lbs. raisins, 84 lbs. currants, 14 lbs. lemon peel, 4 lbs. citron, 12 lbs. orange peel, 90 lbs. suet, 100 lbs. flour, 80 lbs. moist sugar, 1 lb. spice, 36 lbs. bread crumbs, 16 pints milk, 4 gallons beer, 440 eggs.

THE staff of the Chelsea Infirmary sat down to an excellent repast on Christmas Eve, consisting of turkeys, geese, plum puddings, and mince pies. The table was beautifully decorated with ferns and palms which showed up well in the crimson centre strip, on which an ample dessert was likewise arranged. Miss DE PLEDGE, assisted by Mrs. WARREN and Miss LOFTS, presided, and a very pleasant and happy Christmas was spent by all.

MISS DE PLEDGE was the recipient on Christmas day of a very handsome set of silver fish knives and forks from the Nursing staff, and a charming butter dish from the servants, accompanied by some appropriate lines, which were greatly appreciated.

THE Superintendent and Nurses of the Ings Home Co-operation, 25, Nottingham Place, entertained the Post Office Employés attached to the Western Postal District right royally last Thursday evening—an excellent supper being provided, after which they enjoyed a bright musical entertainment. The evening closed appropriately with a Christmas carol and the National Anthem.

WE are glad to notice that amongst the New Year's Honours the QUEEN has conferred a Knighthood upon Mr. ROBERT HUNTER, the well-known Solicitor to the Post Office. Sir ROBERT and Lady HUNTER are known to Nurses as energetic Governors of the London Hospital, whose disinterested efforts on behalf of Nursing reform, have already borne good fruit. We heartily congratulate them upon the State recognition which the public work of Sir ROBERT HUNTER has now received.

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