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## HAPPY TIME IN HOSPITAL.

### The Christmas Celebration.

The many convalescent soldiers who were compelled by circumstances to spend Christmas within the walls of one or other of the three Military Hospitals at Worthing had a welcome share of the traditional enjoyments of the season, for generous provision was made for their entertainment, and the members of the respective staffs did all in their power to add to their happiness. We give below a brief description of the celebration at each of these institutions.

#### The Grange.

Sixty patients participated in the festivities at the Grange, the only inmate to receive a pass being a Brighton man, who was desirous of spending this, his fourth Christmas in the Army, with his own people.

Every man received a packet of fifty cigarettes the first thing on Christmas morning; and, thanks largely to the representation which had been made on their behalf by the Superintendent (Mr. A. C. Evans), a special concession was obtained which enabled all those who desired it to have a glass of ale with their midday meal.

Five large turkeys, in addition to roast beef, vegetables, plum puddings, and mince pies, provided an appetising repast, and there was also a generous distribution of apples, sweets, and nuts in the way of dessert.

The afternoon was free for the men to spend as they pleased, but there was a return to the two dining rooms at five o'clock for tea, and in the evening there was an impromptu Concert, followed by a Whist Drive; a supper of cold boiled pork and mince pies being served during an interval in the play at the whist tables.

#### The Cecils

There were thirty-eight patients in residence at the Cecils Red Cross Hospital, and the day was ushered in by the singing of carols by the Nurses, and by an inspection of the well-filled stockings, some of which contained as many as ten or a dozen different articles.

A short religious service was conducted by the Rev. A. Harrington.

Dinner was served at twelve o'clock, the menu consisting of roast pork and apple sauce, vegetables, and Christmas puddings of milk, and jellies, with lemonade and ginger beer as a beverage; and at the conclusion of the repast there was a distribution of Christmas gifts to the patients from the Nurses and Staff, who had raised between £8 and £9 among themselves for this purpose.

In the evening, after tea, the men themselves entertained the Nurses and Staff to an enjoyable musical programme, a feature of which consisted of some very clever character sketches. A plentiful supply of cigarettes, the gift of Mr. T. Saunders, the owner of the house, contributed materially to the pleasure the men derived from the day's festivities.

#### St. Mary's.

Fifty-five soldier patients participated in the festivities at St. Mary's Red Cross Hospital, and here also an inspection of the contents of the stockings that had been suspended at the bedside overnight was one of the first things to engage the attention of the men.

Breakfast was served at half-past seven, and was followed at ten o'clock by a short service in the annexe, conducted by the Rev. C. J. Hollis, Vicar of Holy Trinity.

Dinner was served at noon under the superintendence of the Matron (Miss Gaisford), Miss Cargill, and the Quartermaster (Mrs. Hinxman); two appetising turkeys forming a prominent feature of the bill of fare. Fruit, nuts, sweets, and cigarettes were distributed after dinner; and in the evening, after tea, there was an enjoyable musical entertainment in the wooden annexe, followed by a generous distribution of presents from a large and electrically illuminated Christmas tree, and also from a lucky bag.

