

### THE CHRISTMAS SEASON AT OUR NOVA SCOTIA SANATORIUM, KENTVILLE.

As many of the men had home leave for Christmas, the Season's celebrations at the sanatorium began before their departure. On Monday evening, December 20th, the Olympic Chapter (Kentville) Daughters of the Empire gave a "Treat" with cards and music, in the patients' dining hall.

Each of the boys going home was presented, before leaving, with a box containing sweets, smokes and useful articles by the Knights of Columbus, and each also received from Capt. Holland, a Princess Mary Souvenir Box and a cartidge pencil, which he had been able to secure for the men; and a pair of socks from Miss MacDonnell on behalf of the Red Cross Society.

On Christmas morning, each bed patient, on awakening, found a well-filled stocking which Santa Claus had presumably left in the night. Each Infirmary Ward (3 beds) had its own Christmas tree, giving a seasonably festive appearance to the porches; and the halls and reception room were very prettily decorated with festoons and wreaths of spruce with touches of red trimming. Pavilion patients received each his Christmas stocking at breakfast time and a gift of a pair of warm socks.

At ten o'clock there was a service in the Assembly Hall in the Recreation Building, at which Mr. Hogan, Y. M. C. A. Secretary and Rev. Mr. Porter, of Kentville, spoke to the patients, and at which music was rendered by the "San" orchestra, and a special choir of staff and patients. Following this service, the choir, led by several of the orchestra, walked through the corridors of the Infirmary singing Christmas carols for the enjoyment of the bed-patients.

At eleven o'clock, Mr. Hogan, representing the Y.M.C.A., and accompanied by Messrs. Newcombe and Harris, of the Kentville Y.M.C.A., Rev. Mr. Porter and the Matron, led around a Santa Claus who gave to each patient in the Infirmary a Christmas box containing the usual sweets, fruits, smokes and small articles, also a suit of pyjamas.

At noon, luncheon was served; and in the afternoon the nurses, in their pleasant and homelike reception room, were "at home" to all pavilion patients from two o'clock until five. This meant over a hundred callers.

At 6.30 came the "event of the day," the Christmas dinner, followed at once by the Christmas tree. The dining hall had been elaborately decorated with spruce garlands and colored lanterns, for which special lighting was arranged. The broad, high hall, with its tall pillars, lends itself well to decoration; and the numerous round tables, shining with white linen cloth, and gay little favors and menu cards, were arranged in great circles around the immense Tree, twinkling with colored lights. Each table had as a centerpiece a good-sized chimney filled with fruits and confections, topped by a presiding "St. Nicholas" or to give him the name of our childish days, a jolly little Santa Claus. Altogether it was a scene of brilliance and cheer such as one might go far to see. And the usual noises of a holiday crowd were fully in evidence, together with the

decorum of a happy home.

The menu followed the best traditional lines of a real home Christmas dinner, consisting of consommé, oyster patties, turkey, cranberry sauce, vegetables, plum pudding, frozen pudding, nuts, candy and coffee.

During dinner music was provided by the Sanatorium Patient's Orchestra, assisted by Mrs. Cross and Mr. Percy Young of Kentville. Mr. R. B. Logan, who was in fine voice, sang twice. Next came the distribution of the gifts from the Tree, by a portly and witty Santa Claus, whose voice resembled that of Mr. Reverdy Prosser. There was a parcel for each patient. This was made possible through the interest and generosity of friends throughout the Province (one in P.E.I.) some of whom are former patients of the Sanatorium. Grateful reference to this was made by Dr. Miller, in a short speech at the closer in which he voiced the gratitude of staff and patients to the Red Cross Societies and others who had so generously provided Christmas gifts. He also expressed the keen appreciation due to those heads of staff and other workers at the sanatorium who spared no care nor labour to make the day the success it assuredly was. Among those are Doctors Sieniewicz and Bayne, Miss MacDonnell (Matron), Miss Dobson, (Dietitian), Capt. Holland, Miss Churchill and Miss Johnston, all of whom, in addition to their own duties, naturally increased at this season, helped in committee work and at supervising and preparing the decorations. The decoration of the Recreation Hall was in charge of Miss Nixon and Mr. MacGillivray.

Some of the pavilion rooms were very prettily trimmed, interest having been aroused among patients by the offering of a prize for the best-decorated ward or room.

On the Wednesday following Christmas, the choir of St. Stephen's Methodist Church, Kentville (35 voices) led by Mr. Burpee Bishop and accompanied by Rev. W. A. Porter and Mrs. Porter, came to the Infirmary and gave a delightful program of music.

Kindnesses such as these add greatly to the courage and contentment of those "taking the cure."

On Thursday the patients were favored with a concert by Halifax artists—Miss Ella Courtney, Mr. Ivan Williams, Mrs. Arthur Tully and Mr. Gilbert Hart, assisted by Mrs. J. D. Clark, of Kentville, as accompanist. This was music of a truly high order and it was fully enjoyed.

On New Year's Day, the staff were "at home" to the townspeople and friends of the sanatorium from 2.30 to 5.30 p.m. Most of Kentville's prominent men and

women were present, and the "San" orchestra again did good service in furnishing music for dancing. Mrs. D. G. Ross of Kentville and Mrs. Arthur Tully, of New Glasgow, sang, to the delight of guests and hosts. There was, also, on New Year's afternoon, another reception for the patients at the Nurses' Home.

The Y.M.C.A. is deferring its Christmas Social until the men return from home leave, which will be about the 4th of January.

Money contributions for the Sanatorium were received from: Mr. Joe Aucoin, Kentville; Mr. Burpee Tucker, Kentville; Mr. H. H. Marshall, Greenwich, N.S.; The Young Scouts, Oxford, N.S.; Mrs. Botsford, Kentville; Red Cross Society, Millville, N.S.; Mrs. M. A. Tylor, Windsor, N.S.; A Friend, Yarmouth, N.S.; C. Arthur Hopkins, Springhill, N.S.; Coleraine Chapter, I.O.D.E., Pictou, N.S.; George C. Roy, Kentville; Lord Amherst Chapter, I.O.D.E., Amherst, N.S.; Mr. P. J. Aucoin, Kentville; Tantramar Chapter, I.O.D.E., Amherst, N.S.; Mr. E. C. Bowers, Westport, N.S.; Miss L. A. Smith, Windsor, N.S.; Markland Chapter, I.O.D.E., Yarmouth, N.S.; Canadian Club, Digby, N.S.; W. F. D. Brommer, Falmouth, N.S.; Miss Ruby Balcom, Margareville, N.S.; Women's Local Council, Yarmouth, N.S.; A Friend, Westport, N.S.; Red Cross Society, Hantsport, N.S.

Christmas stockings were received from the following: The Nova Scotia Branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society, Halifax; The Kentville Red Cross Society; Minard's Liniment for Colds, Etc.

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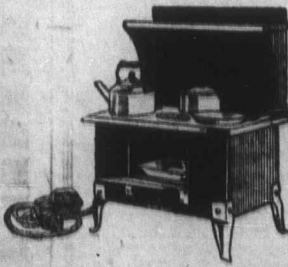


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