



Santa Claus Distributing Gifts at the Christmas Tree.

CHRISTMAS AT KINGSWOOD.

(Contributed by Sergeant Hishon and Private F. B. Smith, two of the patients.)

Christmas! What a word to conjure with! What anticipations! Long ere the time drew near signs were not lacking to show that the happiest day of the year was once more approaching.

Preparations, planned long in advance, were rapidly executed, and with skill, under the direction of the Matron and Sisters, who had the hearty co-operation of staff and patients. The tastefully-decorated rooms justified the many whispered consultations and secret conclave.

The walls of the large rooms and spacious halls were suitably adorned with evergreen, holly and mistletoe (which was not hung in vain). These, with the paper and tinsel decorations, created a unique contrast, pleasing to the eye. From corner to corner of the dining-hall were hung the various flags of the Allies, while those of Great Britain and America were draped over the doors. Numerous streamers and evergreen wreaths, in various attractive forms, testified to the enthusiasm of all who participated in the scheme. To their efforts it is due that Kingswood presented such a typically Christmas appearance.

True to custom, Santa Claus made his visit on Christmas Eve, and each patient found on his bed on awaking a well-filled stocking, for which Santa Claus said all were indebted to the good ladies of the Canadian Red Cross, in far-away Canada.

At breakfast, cigarettes were distributed to all, for which thanks are due to kind friends in the vicinity.

And then the suspense until dinner! In different corners of the house, men could be observed preparing for each other those little tokens which went so far towards making all forget for a while whatever minor indispositions they might possess. Among them could be seen several former patients who, always assured of a welcome and a good time at "Kingswood," had returned for the day.

Various speculations were ventured regarding the most important function of the day—Dinner. But it is no exaggeration to state that no one expected such a lavish display of good things as greeted their gaze when the dining-hall doors were thrown open at 12.30. Truly might it be said that the realization was even more enjoyable than the anticipation!

With the utmost enthusiasm the orderly-room staff entered heartily into their self-imposed duties as "waiters," and they suc-