

"The operative work is at a standstill for the present time on account of our inability to raise the temperature of the operating tent above 35 to 40 degrees, but until a couple of days ago we were able to manage fairly well, and we hope that the present severe conditions will abate a little and let us carry on that branch of the work.

#### CHRISTMAS COMFORTS.

"A thousand thanks on behalf of myself and the unit for your suggestion in cable re Christmas comforts. They will certainly be much appreciated, and we will all get our heads together and decide what will be the best course to pursue in expending the sum named.

"We have got our mess working, but under rather rough conditions; a cook-house in the form of trench kitchens, etc., and mess for officers and nurses in big marquees. It is not very easy for the men to work under these conditions and serve things as they are capable of serving them, but they are really doing wonderfully well and we are all making the best of it. There is one bright aspect to the present conditions, and that is this—the authorities have decided to make this a hut hospital. The engineering department have surveyed the grounds for the huts and are sending a working party out to put in the permanent foundation immediately. The huts themselves are being shipped here in sections, and I understand are due to arrive at any time. The director of works promised me, two days ago, that he could have all the buildings erected within one month after the arrival of the parts, but I think that is a promise which it will be pretty difficult for him to realize if I can judge from the speed with which a good many of their other enterprises are carried out. However, if they will put up the ones most immediately needed, according to our directions, we can worry along then without holding them to the time limit of a month. This state of affairs will be a great boon to all of us, and will make life worth living, especially for my nursing sisters."