



Christmas at the Workhouse

The inmates at the workhouse, as usual, were well cared for, special fare being granted for the festive season. Quite early in the morning the inmates were listening to carols on the gramophone, kindly given by the master (Mr. Brown). At 8.30 a service was held in the chapel for those who were able to attend. Dinner was served in the dining hall, which was very tastefully decorated by Mr. and Mrs. Brown. The hall had quite a nautical appearance. On the walls hang lifebuoys, all named after ships in H.M. Navy. At the end was a lighthouse built up on granite, and having a very realistic appearance. The light revolved by an ingenious piece of mechanism arranged by Mr. Brown. The fare consisted of roast pork and beef, beer, etc., and chicken for the sick ward. In addition to the staff there were present Mr. G. M. Wilson, Mr. C. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Kendle and Miss Kendle, Miss Naish, the Misses Rawlence, Dr. Straton, Mr. W. Straton, and General French, C.B.

Gifts were sent by: The Rev. and Mrs. Gordon Bond, one shilling and chocolates for each inmate of the sick ward and sewing room, tea and sugar for the women, and a present for each child; Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, cake, tobacco, tea, and oranges; Mr. J. Moore, sweets; Mrs. G. Rawlence, oranges, sweets, and cards; Miss Rawlence, dessert, fruits, biscuits and cards for the sick wards; Mr. C. Mitchell, ten shillings; Mrs. Witt, Broadchalke, ten shillings; Mr. F. Wiles, sweets; Mrs. J. W. Ward, toys; Miss Willes, Berks. and Bucks. Toy Guild, toys. During the afternoon the Misses Clutterbuck visited the sick wards and gave the men oranges and tobacco and the women oranges and sweets; Mr. Kendle gave the evergreens for decoration; and Mrs. Fisher of Bemerton, sent flowers for decorating the chapel. In the evening an entertainment was provided consisting of songs, duets, quartettes, flute solo, cornet solo, pianoforte solos, etc., those contributing being Mr. and Mrs. Brown, Mr. Ritchie, Miss Fleming, Mr. Hibberd, Mr. Gibson, and Mr. Corbin. The programme concluded with a farce entitled "Beautiful for Ever". The characters were: "Mr. Simpleton," Mr. Corbin; "Tom" (servant to Mr. Simpleton), Mr. Brown; "Mrs. Simpleton," Miss Fleming; "Jelly," Mrs. Brown.

At the close the inmates expressed their thanks to the Guardians for the extra fare, and also to the ladies and gentlemen who had sent gifts. The number of inmates is 92, against 81 for the corresponding period last year.

Salisbury Times, Friday, 1 January 1909