

Newsletter 1969

This year we are sending you our greetings rather early for Christmas. This is because a number of factors have combined together to cause the Home to close, and after November 10th there will be no mothers or babies here at all. The staff also will disperse, and there will be only a skeleton staff to deal with the clearing up. For a time mail will be dealt with, but there may be new occupants of the house, and after that happens, it will be difficult to ensure that letters reach their right destination.

There are many sad feelings about all this, and we shall inevitably lose the contact we have had with you over the recent and more distant past. There will not of course be any summer reunion party, and if any of you call in — well, it will not be us you will find here. So I had better tell you the news of people so far as I can.

Sister Ireland and Sister Morgan, who have been here so many years, retired at the end of May, but as they both live just outside Lincoln we see them from time to time, and so keep in touch. Sister Ireland has continued to look after the Chapel linen. And that reminds me, we have only this year made alterations to the house, dividing the Chapel so that it is about the same size as the lying-in room (immediately above), and the smaller room (under the duty room), is now my office. The old office has become a sewing room, with all the spare leaves added to the big table, and the two sewing machines always ready for use. It has also made a more private telephoning room for personal calls. Sister Thompson also left at the same time and has been kept busy with various activities at home, and Nurse Anthony also left and is now enjoying working in the south of France. At this time we started all deliveries at the New Maternity Wing of the County Hospital. This has not been disliked by the mothers as much as we feared, though they are always glad to get back here among their friends as soon as possible. The New Wing is a very modern place, and comfortable, with all the amenities in the way of medical equipment that we could not provide. The furnishings too are pleasant, and the views from the top of the building — at least from the 5th floor which is as high as any of us have been — are really great. Two of the staff are already engaged to work there when we close, Nurse Hanlon and Nurse Whittle. The rest of us are not yet fixed up with our future plans. Some of us will remain locally, and some will move further afield. Whatever it is, we all hope that we shall be doing what God wants us to do. In the long run this is the only satisfactory thing for us all.

And so we send you our greetings and our very best wishes for Christmas and for 1970, and for all the years to follow, for yourselves and all whom you love.

May God bless us all.