



An hospital ward decorated for Xmas during WWI (image courtesy of British Red Cross)

Christmas In "D" Ward (Heywood Hospital)

It was Xmas morn in "D" Ward,
What it was like I will try and record.
All around the snow lay thick,
We couldn't stand for fear we'd stick.
I should like to have had a barometer there,
It would have said zero. That I will swear!
The nurses shiver, hands a-wringing,
And Nurse Parsons hot bottles bringing.
They stand at the door and hesitate,
For "D" Ward looks in a very bad state.
They seem to shake from head to toe
As they enter the Ward of snow.
But in they came eventually
To find the patients full of glee.
The doctor brought his friends around,
In "D" Ward there was not a sound.
They wrapped up warm, for well they knew
Such chilly spots were very few.
But still they all went out alive,
And having luck may yet survive!
I think we gave them a surprise,
And that is why we got First Prize.
We weren't afraid of freezing there
Under our good Nurse Austin's care.
She wrapped us up in clothes, galore,
(I never wore so much before!)

Sapper Power & Pte. Campbell c1917