

1825, much of the prejudice which originally existed against being placed in a public hospital having been overcome, the directors resolved to extend the benefits of the charity by adding the two wings as contemplated in the original design. In 1836 the medical and surgical sections were separated and the different departments of the institution more particularly specialised, the accommodation being now equal to about 110 beds. Dr. Paterson, of Bridge of Allan, was about this time a resident surgeon. For about half a century after its foundation the first Infirmary continued thus to serve the purpose for which it was intended, but the immense increase in the growth of the town—the population had been doubled between the years 1821 and 1841, the period which marked the introduction of the power-loom to Dundee—and its inadequacy in the event of epidemics, which were more frequent then than now, and the fact that the house was being hemmed in by buildings on every side, notwithstanding the buying up a piece of ground in front some years before to prevent this contingency, combined to render a change imperative. At this particular point of the history of the Infirmary—the last days of the old institution and the earlier years of the new—it is difficult to find reliable records, many of the old books and documents which would otherwise have been interesting, having been burned about 1825 by an unusually energetic superintendent, who was willing to sacrifice them for the dread of any infection they might carry, apart altogether from any historical associations which might be attached to them. A timely bequest of £8000 by the Soutars of Thornbank (who subsequently gave Thornbank house and grounds, (besides other donations) towards the erection of a new Infirmary, provided the nucleus of a building fund. Sir John Ogilvy was Chairman of the Board of Directors, and he enlisted the sympathies of many philanthropic citizens and wealthy proprietors in the neighbourhood, so that steps were ultimately taken for the erection of a modern hospital, which should be thoroughly adapted to its purpose and worthy of the town. The well known site—perhaps the finest that could have been selected—under the Law Hill, bounded on the one side by the Barrack Park and on the South by the grounds of the ancient Dudhope Castle and Barracks, while the east side of the grounds embraces through its length a portion of the site of the romantic Dundee and Newtyle Railway—was fixed upon, and on 22nd July 1852 the foundation stone was laid with great ceremony. As showing the public enthusiasm which was manifested on the occasion, it may be mentioned that the public works were

stopped and business suspended for the day. The foundation-stone was laid with full Masonic honours by his Grace the Duke of Athole, accompanied by Lord Panmure, Sir John Ogilvy, Provost Thoms, and Mr. George Duncan, M.P. Among those prominent citizens who were present on that occasion probably the only one remaining is Mr. Alexander J. Buist. The procession is said to have filled the steep ascent of Constitution Road from top to bottom.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

THE outbreak of Cholera at Constantinople is at last officially admitted. It is said that from 20 to 30 cases are occurring daily. The reports from the other infected countries on the continent contain no new feature. No more cases have recently occurred in Berlin, but four were reported yesterday in other parts of Germany. The epidemic is decreasing a little in Hungary, and more markedly in Galicia. The number of fresh cases and of deaths in Russia continues to be large.

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THE trustees of Cork South Infirmary have issued a special appeal for funds to carry out certain necessary improvements. The sanitary arrangements, it appears, are of an unsatisfactory character, and, in the interests of the patients, they must be altered without delay. An entirely new system of lavatories will be provided, and the old lavatories will supply a long-felt want—a suitable wardmaid's scullery on each landing of the Hospital. These alterations will cost about £1,000, one half of which has been contributed by friends of the Institution. A prompt and generous response from the charitable public is confidently expected by the trustees, who have already commenced operations.

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At a meeting of the Kingston-on Thames Town Council last week, a resolution was carried with unanimity to strenuously resist the proposal to establish an infectious diseases Hospital on the banks of the Thames between the river and Richmond-road, Kingston. The action of the Richmond officials and the Dysart trustees was strongly disapproved by the members of the Council, and the opinion was expressed that Kingston should provide a Hospital for its own use.

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