

the use of antiseptics in midwifery work as a means of the prevention of puerperal fevers. With much force, he draws attention to the well authenticated facts that, whereas in England, it has been proved that 1,230 confinements can take place with only one death, from all causes, in Prussian towns there are 2'07 deaths from puerperal fever to every 1,000 births, while the proportion in Baden from the same cause was 3'08 per thousand. The average number of deaths in childbed in Prussia were 5'04 per 1,000, in Bavaria 5'09 per 1,000, in Saxony 6'06, and in Baden 7'02, all of which contrast most unfavourably of course with the mortality in England. There can be no doubt that, to use the words of the author, there has of late years been a disposition to magnify the power of antiseptics, and to overlook the fact that improved skill, care and cleanliness in midwifery must of themselves have tended very greatly to reduce the dangers of this condition. Naturally, at present, it might almost be accepted as a fact that labour with ordinary care is an absolutely safe occurrence in the practice of English medical men. The careful facts and conclusions arrived at by Dr. Lovell Drage render his contribution one of great importance, and Obstetric Nurses might with much benefit read his valuable paper.

CANCER WARDS.

The appeal which the Middlesex Hospital is now making for funds, in order to increase its accommodation for patients afflicted with cancer, is one which is well worthy of, and one which we hope will receive, wide support. It is not generally known that this Institution stands almost alone amongst other Hospitals in providing wards to which patients suffering from this, at present, incurable disease can be admitted and maintained until relieved by art or released by death. But the accommodation is most inadequate to the demands which are made upon it. At present there are only thirty-five beds available for this purpose, nine for men, and twenty-six for women, and there are thirty-five applicants waiting for their turn. So, unfortunately, there can be little doubt that to many of these sufferers the chance of admission will come too late. It is estimated that it would cost £12,000 to provide a more adequate number of beds for these distressing cases, and the Prince of Wales, with that interest which His Royal Highness always shows in good works, has consented to preside at a dinner and to make a special appeal for the necessary funds on April 13th. We earnestly wish the movement complete and speedy success.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



IT is not generally known that, whenever our good QUEEN goes abroad, the leavings of her table are, by her command, carefully collected for the "Little Sisters of the Poor."

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THE Duke of CAMBRIDGE has consented to preside at the Triennial Festival in aid of the Funds of the Charing Cross Hospital, in the Whitehall Rooms, Hôtel Métropole, on May 12.

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THE Baron DE HIRSCH has, through Mr. GEORGE HERRING, most kindly sent £500 to the British Home for Incurables, which was the first Charity in England to receive the Patronage of the Princess of WALES. This Donation is to be placed to the Fund for furnishing the New Home, now being built at Streatham, and which will be opened in June next.

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The Baron has also sent a donation of £600 to the funds of the Brompton Hospital for Consumption, and £500 to the North-West London Hospital, Kentish Town Road; £200 to the City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, Victoria Park, E., and a further donation of £300 towards the £5,000 still required to pay off the debt on the new buildings of the Great Northern Central Hospital.

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AT the Festival Dinner in aid of the funds of the Middlesex Hospital, which is to be held at the Whitehall Rooms of the Hôtel Métropole, on the 13th of April, it is proposed to raise a Special Fund with a view of providing new accommodation for Females suffering from Incurable Cancer. His Royal Highness the Prince of WALES is to preside, and a long list of noblemen have consented to act as stewards, and we do not doubt that the public will evince true sympathy with this most terrible form of suffering by contributing generously to this most genuine Charity.

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THE annual Amateur Art Exhibition will be held at the Imperial Institute during the first week in May, on behalf of the Parochial Mission Women's Fund, the East London Nursing Society, and the East End Mothers' Home. A loan exhibition of pastels and miniatures by the late JOHN RUSSELL, R.A., will be held in connection with the above. The Hon. Mrs. STUART WORTLEY, 16, Clarges Street, Piccadilly, W., is the Hon. Sec. of the exhibition.

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