

## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE Queen has been graciously pleased to become the patron of the Church of England Waifs and Strays Society.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of York has consented to open the new building of the London Homœopathic Hospital. Royal patronage could not be extended to a more worthy institution, so far as the excellence of the Nursing Department is concerned.

It is satisfactory to learn that His Royal Highness the Duke of York is recovering from his attack of influenza, and will preside at a dinner in support of Princess Mary's Village Homes, at the Whitehall Rooms, Hôtel Métropole.

The Duke of Cambridge will preside at the Biennial Festival of the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic (Albany Memorial), Queen Square, at the Hôtel Métropole, on April the 2nd, at 7 p.m.

The Merchant Taylors' Company has granted the sum of £525 to the St. Thomas's Hospital Special Appeal Fund for opening closed wards, which will be paid in annual instalments of 100 guineas.

Mr Henry Simon, of Manchester, has presented to Owens College £5,000 for the endowment of a chair of German language and literature.

The 21st annual meeting of the Hospital Saturday Fund was held in the Egyptian Chamber of the Mansion House this week, Mr. Reginald Dyke-Acland presiding. There was a large attendance. In their report the Committee stated that: "It is a matter for regret that the total amount awarded to the various medical charities is slightly below the amount awarded last year, the total granted last year being £17,778 against £17,608. This, however, is not due in any way to a decline in the receipts from the workshops, which the Council still consider to be the main and by far the most important source of income, but it is due rather to the fact that the balance brought forward from 1893 was £315 10s 11d., against £1,113 19s 6d., and to the fact that the street collection shows a falling off of £488. A new

departure has been taken in the formation of ambulance classes for the instruction of delegates and others employed in shops. One class has already been held, and two more are in course of formation. It has been decided to issue, under strict regulations, framed with a view of protecting and preserving them, boxes which contain everything necessary for the first aid to the injured. Twelve of these boxes have already been issued, and the Council trust that they may be the means of relieving those who from time to time are injured in the course of their work." The treasurer's account showed a balance at the bankers of £95 odd. The report having been adopted, on the motion of Canon Scott Holland, seconded by Dr. Theodore Acland (St. Thomas's Hospital), a further motion was agreed to, recommending the use of collection boxes in workshops and places of business for weekly contributions to the Fund.

In the course of "A Plea for Consumptive Hospitals for Scotland," which has just been issued by Mr. W. Quarrier, of the Orphan Homes of Scotland, the following reasons are given for the building of these hospitals:—

(1) Consumption is the most prevalent and most fatal disease in existence. So much is this the case that it is called the "plague of England," and I suppose it would not be unfair to say that it is equally destructive in Scotland.

(2) While the well-to-do or wealthy suffer from its ravages, consumption is essentially the poor man's disease, the outcome of poor food, poorly ventilated homes, and of overworked body and brain.

(3) Notwithstanding that the disease is so destructive, consumptive patients are often refused admittance into general Hospitals on account of beds being occupied by more urgent cases, and because of the lingering nature of the disease and its almost certain fatality in its advanced stage. These very peculiarities of the disease should give the patient the strongest claim upon our sympathy.

(4) Even if the doors of the general Hospitals were freely open to receive consumptive patients (and you know they are not), these institutions do not afford the necessary facilities for the proper treatment and care of such patients.

(5) While the aim is to furnish a home for consumptives and thus bring relief to the patients, undoubtedly a great benefit will be secured by affording an opportunity to physicians for the more careful study of this disease. This can be better done when a number of patients are brought together in the one building. The general public will be benefited through the education that will be given by patients who have been treated, and who have thus acquired a knowledge of how the disease may be prevented or cured.

(6) It is only by furnishing a building specially prepared for the treatment of patients afflicted with tuberculosis that satisfactory results will be obtained. In the first place it is absolutely necessary to have a building so located that it will be free from smoke, dust, and other impurities of air incident to city life. This is secured in the site amid the hills of Renfrewshire.

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