

## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE has consented to preside at a Festival in aid of the funds of the North London or University College Hospital on Wednesday, May 6th, at 7 p.m., at the "Kings' Hall," Holborn Restaurant. Donations or subscriptions are earnestly invited to be sent in order that they may be added to the Chairman's list of contributions. There are debts to bankers and tradesmen amounting to about £13,500.

The twenty-second Annual Meeting of the Hospital Saturday Fund was held at the Mansion House on Saturday last. Mr. Acland said that the past year would be known in the history of the Society as the "Ambulance Year," on account of the most prominent work which they had undertaken in its course. In the nucleus of 400 students who had been attending the ambulance classes, a highly important work had been commenced. The collections of the past year amounted to a total of £20,354, a result which he regarded as only fairly satisfactory, because he considered nothing short of £50,000 to be quite satisfactory. The number of persons whom the Fund had been able to send to Hospitals was 24,562, but that number constituted only a small proportion of the total number of patients who made use of London Hospitals, for, news though it might be to many persons, it was a fact that one in four of the inhabitants of London attended a Hospital every year.

The President of the Bristol Royal Infirmary, speaking at the Annual Meeting, said he must call attention to what was a great blot on their institution; the sum of money owing to himself, as treasurer, amounted to £8,755, being about £1,800 more than it was at the close of 1894. That was a very serious matter; and he wished to ask the inhabitants of Bristol generally, what were the committee to do? They looked upon the committee as their trustees, but in working that great institution they were their servants as it were, but he was sorry to say that their masters expected them to make bricks without straw. It was serious when they were required to note year by year that the deficiency was becoming greater.

The Bristol Children's Hospital, in its Annual Report, shows a small debt of £150, and reports much good work accomplished. An effort is to be made at Bristol to establish a Hospital Saturday. The committee have proved the Convalescent Home at Weston to be not only incalculably useful to the children, but of great benefit to the Nurses of the hospital, each one of whom has the opportunity of spending two months in the year at the sea-side whilst assisting the Matron, Miss Fishwick, in the care of the children.

The annual special service in aid of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital was held last Sunday in Norwich Cathedral, when the Bishop of Stepney preached. He said in London it was no use presenting a case to business men unless good management could be shown, and paid a very high tribute to the management of the Hospital for which he pleaded so elo-

quently. The Mayor and Corporation attended the service, and a collection in aid of the Hospital was taken by the Nursing staff while the final hymn was sung.

The Yorkshire Needlework Guild presented 650 articles of clothing last year to the Hull Royal Infirmary.

At Gloucester cases of smallpox continue to increase in number at a most alarming rate, about 100 having been notified since Friday morning last. The fund started about ten days ago on behalf of the District Nursing Association, which is providing trained Nurses, was augmented last week by the addition of between £500 and £600, subscribed in the city and neighbourhood of Gloucester. So serious has the epidemic now become that the Midland Railway Company have this week issued a notice cancelling all excursions arranged to be run from Gloucester on and after Thursday next.

The inhabitants continue to be re-vaccinated or vaccinated at the rate of 500 per day, and the total number done since the commencement of the outbreak reaches to between 13,000 and 14,000. At Tewkesbury, with a population of only 5,000, and which is at present without any case of smallpox, one doctor alone has vaccinated 500 persons within the last three weeks.

In spite of the boasts of many Parisians about their magnificent water supply, that supply is miserably deficient both in quantity and quality. At the best of times the kitchens in large establishments, as in Hospitals and public Institutions, are provided with two taps, one supplying the water for "inward application," the other for "outward application." The Parisians have always been indifferent to the advantages of a pure water supply, and for fully a century many eminent men waged war against the introduction of a change from the Seine water to something more hygienic. Parmentier said, "Suppose that a dead dog, in a state of decomposition, be flung into the river, the water taken at three to four inches distant from the animal, whether in front, behind, or at the sides, will certainly not be the worse for it."

Another scientist urged against a proper water supply the argument "that it would lead to such a multiplicity of baths that their use will descend to classes which at the present time are the least concerned with such refinement." And he further argued that "the establishment of public baths at Rome coincides with the development in her midst of the first germs of the decadence which was introduced by Asiatic luxuriousness."

Certain houses in Paris, generally the most modern, bear small blue and white enamelled plates, conveying the information that "water and gas are laid on on every floor." In those houses where water is not laid on, storage in pails and primitive cisterns is necessary, and this accounts for the itinerant "cistern-menders" who perambulate the streets, "tooting" on a cistern tap, flattened at the straight end so as to make a quasi-musical instrument of it.

At a meeting of the Royal College of Physicians, London, held on Monday, Dr. Samuel Wilks, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S., was elected President, *vice* Sir John Russell Reynolds, Bart., resigned.

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