

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



A SPECIAL appeal is being issued, which is endorsed by the Princess Louise, who confidently recommends the National Industrial Home for Crippled Boys, for further funds. The Home, founded in 1866, receives and trains crippled boys from all parts of the United Kingdom. The boys are received for three years, and trained in a trade by which they may become self-supporting. Donations will be gratefully received at the Home, Woolsthorpe House, Wright's Lane, Kensington, W.

A meeting was held on Saturday last in the Board Room of the Charing Cross Hospital in furtherance of the scheme for commemorating the sixtieth year of the Queen's reign, by raising £100,000 "in order to rescue the Hospital from its present perilous financial condition." £50,000 is needed to pay existing liabilities and to meet the estimated deficiency of income for the next five years; and £50,000 is required to provide a new out-patients' department, a Nursing Home, special wards for special cases, and rooms for the resident medical staff. The Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, President of the Hospital, took the chair, and pleaded the cause of the charity, in which the Queen is specially interested. By the way, he must have been somewhat surprised at one of the speakers describing him as "a foreign potentate."

The Cheyne Hospital for Sick and Incurable Children "comes of age" this year, and an endeavour is to be made to build a small double-ward which, on the outbreak of infectious diseases, may be used for "isolation" purposes.

A meeting of the Quarterly General Court of Governors of the Middlesex Hospital was held on November 26th, at 12 o'clock, Mr. J. W. Nunn, F.R.C.S., in the chair, supported by the Right Hon. Sir Ralph Thompson, K.C.B., and several other gentlemen. A *precis* of the transactions of the Weekly Board was read, from which it appeared that the plans for building the new Cancer Wing had been prepared, and the estimates were now under consideration, but that there was still a considerable sum of money required for the building. The trustees of Mr. Henry Delmar's Estate had made an annual subscription of £100 towards the maintenance of the Cancer Wards. Mr. Bancroft had, by his reading, raised the sum of £300 for the benefit of these wards. Mr. Larkins, J.P., was appointed a Vice-President of the Hospital. The subscriptions received during the past quarter amounted to £415 13s. The number of patients treated had been 479 medical and 602 surgical, whilst 12,963 out-patients had been seen, these patients attending altogether 30,002 times. The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

From the Quarterly Report to the Governors of Middlesex Hospital we learn that Miss Ashton, the

"Sister" of Forbes Ward, who has been in the service of the Hospital for 26 years, and is now retiring on account of ill-health, has been granted a pension of £23 6s. 8d. Or, in other words, and to put it more plainly—after twenty-six years of hard and unceasing work, this lady, in delicate health, will have to eke out the remainder of her days on *eight shillings and elevenpence-halfpenny a week*, unless she has private means.

We do not hear that any of the Governors raised one word of protest. And yet, as business men, they must have realised that they were making a poor return to a faithful and devoted Nurse of the sick, who had grown ill in the service of the Hospital. £1 a week is the least sum which should be offered by any Hospital to its Sisters after long service. Mr. Bancroft is generously giving his services to collect for various charities. Could he not give a few readings of his Christmas Carols for the benefit of Hospital Sisters who are granted such parsimonious pensions?

We learn further from the Middlesex Hospital Report that the Baroness de Hirsch having given her consent, a ward in the Home has been named the "De Hirsch Ward," in memory of the late Baron; and that the grant from the Metropolitan Sunday Fund this year amounted to £2,204 3s. 4d.

Lord Kinnaird has accepted the position of Trustee to the Dental Hospital of London, Leicester Square. An appeal is now being issued for funds to provide a new Hospital.

Mr. Bancroft has promised to give his reading of "The Christmas Carol," in aid of the funds of Charing Cross Hospital, at St. Martin's Town Hall, on Friday evening, January 22nd.

The Committee of Queen Charlotte's Lying-in Hospital have received a donation of £1,000 from the Dowager Lady Howard de Walden, through Mr. F. G. Cavendish Bentinck, towards the Extension Improvement Fund.

The Hospital for Consumption, in Manchester, is being widely supported. In addition to the proceeds from the bazaar—which when the accounts are closed will amount to nearly £11,000—the secretary, Mr. Rowcliffe, has received an intimation from Mr. W. G. Groves, of The Larches, Alderley Edge, and Mr. James G. Groves, of Oldfield Hall, Altrincham, that they will each endow a cot at the Hospital.

The new Park Hospital, one of the three new Hospitals the Metropolitan Asylums Board are providing for infectious cases, is a model building, covering an area of nearly twenty acres. It should prove a healthful and charming home for Nurses, despite the nature of the diseases to be treated there. The grounds are so extensive that one is tempted to ask if the Matron will do her "duty rounds" on motor car or bicycle. In wintry weather these large "villages" of Hospital buildings make the Matron's rounds somewhat trying, and a very warm wrap is required.

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