

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



SIR BENJAMIN WARD RICHARDSON'S death will be widely regretted, not only by the medical profession, but by that large world of hygienists to whom he was so valuable a teacher. He was very popular with the Nursing staff of the London Temperance Hospital, in which Institution he always took a deep interest.

Mr. Bancroft's reading of a "Christmas Carol" at the Queen's Hall on Monday, was a great success, and drew a large and attentive audience. At the conclusion of the reading, Sir Ralph Thompson, chairman of the weekly board of management of Middlesex Hospital, came forward and invited the audience to pass a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Bancroft for his generous action in giving the reading on behalf of the Hospital. He incidentally mentioned that as a result of the evening's entertainment upwards of £300 had been realized for the benefit of the cancer wards. It may be mentioned that special efforts are now being made to build a new wing for female cancer patients at Middlesex Hospital.

Dr. Jameson's operation has renewed public sympathy. He is progressing well under the care of the prison doctor and a Nurse attendant who is constantly with him.

The Board of Delegates of the Hospital Saturday Fund have not too soon arrived at the conclusion that the "tone of the street collections needs raising." It is a conclusion we have reached for some two years past, and we have received numerous complaints from lady collectors which go to prove that their task in the cause of charity is by no means an agreeable one. It is not pleasant for ladies to stand at street corners and to be subject for many hours to the somewhat rough chaff of the London 'Arry boy—a good-hearted person in the main, but not the most refined type with whom to "rub shoulders."

The London Fever Hospital Committee is anxious to add more annual subscribers to their list in order to ensure a more reliable income. They remind the public that such subscribers are entitled to send their domestic servants for free treatment in the Hospital. So that in donating to the Hospital one not only serves the purposes of charity in general, but establishes a kind of house insurance against infectious disease, for the prompt removal of a domestic servant suffering from one of these diseases very much lessens the danger to those remaining in the house.

A "Hospital Superintendent" writes to the Press to point out that the enormous sum contributed to Guy's Hospital in response to the appeal from the Prince of Wales has placed the remainder of our voluntary Hospitals in worse straits than ever. This, of course, was inevitable.

A scheme has been inaugurated for building a new Consumption Hospital for Liverpool to accommodate 76 patients.

While the *Newcastle* papers have published columns of eulogiums on the new Infirmary cause, a champion has arisen on the other side of the question. Dr. Jeafferson writes to the *Newcastle Leader* on the many abuses to which medical charities are open. As an example he speaks of the workmen of one of the largest local firms, who are receiving in wages something like a million and a half annually, while the firm is paying its shareholders 20 per cent. dividends, and yet, in the main, the operatives seek medical advice at the hands of charity.

He makes one or two novel suggestions of the steps which should be taken to remedy the evils of the Hospital system, and one of his recommendations is the abolition of the out-door patient department, except in the case of those who have been previously in the Hospital, and he goes so far as to suggest that the names and addresses of patients who avail themselves of our medical charities be published weekly. If this list were published—say, in the *Morning Post*—of affluent people who attend the out-patient department of some of our London Hospitals, many of these same names would easily be found by referring to the Red Book and Court Guide.

A new Hospital is to be built for the use of the trainers and jockeys at Chantilly.

During this week the voting papers for the Third Election of Direct Representatives to the General Medical Council have been sent to every registered medical practitioner in the kingdom—and no doubt the result of the voting will be anxiously awaited by the ten candidates—of which only three can be chosen. The important point to note in this election is the almost unanimous opinion upon the part of gentlemen in general practice—that their interests will be better represented on the Council by men chosen from the ranks of general practitioners, and not from consultants; and in this view we have no doubt they are right. Self-government is the order of the day, and "only those who wear it know where the shoe pinches."

A Special Meeting of the Incorporated Medical Practitioners' Association is to be held in December, to discuss suggestions for a Provident Medical Scheme—outlined by Dr. Bedford Fenwick, the President, in this week's *Medical Times*. On the important question of Insurance and Sick Pay, he says:

"Next there arises the very important question of Insurance for sick pay, burial fund, and so forth; a system which has proved to be of very considerable advantage to the poorer classes, and one whose usefulness may be regarded as proved by the wide popularity which it has achieved. Some medical men have argued that it would be difficult to start a successful Provident Medical Aid scheme unless it could be combined with some system of such Insurance. This matter has therefore, been very carefully considered. It is well known that Insurances form a most profitable undertaking and yield large dividends to those companies

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