

The Hospital World.

SURGERY SYSTEMS.

EAST LONDON HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN AND DISPENSARY FOR WOMEN, SHADWELL.

THIS hospital, which is situated in the centre of a dense and very poor population, has a larger number of out-patients than any other children's hospital in London. When it is realised that the hospital is within a stone's throw of the famous Ratchiffe Highway and kindred, if less notorious, streets, it will be easily understood that it must be a very haven of rest to the many sick children that find shelter within its walls, and also that it exercises a humanising and elevating influence, the benefits of which cannot be over-estimated.

The nursing staff of the out-patient and casualty department consists of a sister and three nurses during the day. At night there are not, as a rule, many cases brought to the hospital; the night superintendent attends in the surgery if necessary. It is a distinctive feature of this children's hospital that there is a dispensary for women attached to it, and that therefore the mothers, as well as their children, can obtain medical assistance. There is a similar arrangement to that at the London Hospital, whereby patients can obtain lunch or tea on payment of a small sum. The large waiting room is pleasant and cheerful, and the glazed green bricks of which the walls are composed, give it a very cleanly appearance. There is some attempt to classify the cases, and there are boards put up in various parts of the room announcing "dressings," "sore throats," "whooping cough," and so on. I was told by the matron, Miss Row, that a whooping cough ward is much needed. There are two small rooms in which infectious cases can be at once isolated until removed by the Metropolitan Asylums Board. The large oil painting at the end of the room was specially painted for it by the artist in order that the out-patients might have something pleasant to look at. In connection with the system which prevails at Great Ormond Street of washing the patients in the out-patient department it is interesting to notice that at Shadwell there are bath rooms *at the entrance* to the wards, so that new patients are bathed and their clothes changed before entering the wards. This system has the advantage of avoiding the risk of introducing infection, while it lessens the danger of the possibility of a chill to the patient while being carried through draughty corridors after a warm bath. The Shadwell Children's Hospital is unique in possessing a babies' ward, where all the patients are infants under two years of age.

M. B.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN has forwarded £10 towards the objects of the Royal National Hospital for Consumption at Ventnor.

The Council of the Sanitary Institute have accepted an invitation from the City Council of Leeds to hold a Sanitary Congress and Health Exhibition in that city in the month of September next.

The annual general court of the Governors of the Charing Cross Hospital has been recently held at that institution under the presidency of Lord Glenesk, who stated that the accommodation provided by the Hospital was now painfully deficient. It had no isolation or special wards, and was altogether too small. He hoped that the special appeal now being made for £100,000 would be liberally responded to. There was no reserve fund, and the hospital buildings were heavily mortgaged, the debt being over £17,000. While they were entirely in sympathy with the movement initiated by the Prince of Wales, and hoped to get some portion of the fund, they could not anticipate that their share would be extraordinary. He therefore urged the claims of the special appeal for the Charing Cross Hospital, to aid which the Lord Mayor had consented to hold a meeting at the Mansion House on March 5th.

The Mercers' Company have granted 1,000 guineas to the special appeal of £100,000 now being raised for Charing Cross Hospital. The Leathersellers' Company have also granted £100, the Brewers' Company 20 guineas, the Cutlers' Company 10 guineas, and the Scriveners' Company 10 guineas to the same fund.

At the annual court of the Governors of the Royal Free Hospital it was reported that 2,070 in-patients and 38,992 out-patients had been treated. The chairman, Mr. Justice Bruce, in moving the adoption of the report, said that it was very satisfactory to find that, though so large a number of out-patients attended the hospital, there had been no abuse whatever of the charity. The cases were investigated by an almoner, and it was found that out of 2,475 cases, there were only seven where the patients could have paid for medical relief. An important announcement was made to the effect that it had been decided to incorporate the School of Medicine for Women under the title of the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine for Women.

At the annual meeting of the Governors of the London Fever Hospital the chairman, Lord Balfour, commented on the fact that the death-rate for scarlet fever in the hospital during the past year had been 1·3 per cent., as compared with an average death rate

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