

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE Gold Medal of the British Medical Association, which is given for distinguished services, has been awarded to Sir Walter B. Foster, M.P. Sir Walter Foster rendered great service, as Secretary of the Local Government Board under the late Administration, in coping with the cholera invasions of 1892 and 1894.

Plans have been submitted to the Admiralty of a new type of hospital launch for conveying naval invalids from Spithead to Haslar Hospital. At present the invalids are sent ashore in ordinary 42 feet launches or in gunboats, and in the latter case they are transferred to launches when inside Portsmouth Harbour. The proposed launches have been specially designed for carrying invalids in comparative comfort.

The Asylum Workers' Association has published the second issue of its journal, *Asylum News*. We congratulate this Association on the work which it has accomplished so far. The Association now numbers between 2,000 and 3,000 members, and issues a list of these with the current number.

At a meeting of the Hospital Reform Association, recently held in Birmingham, it was contended that hospitals should be run either upon charitable or business lines, and that the two should not be mixed, as the competition between these institutions occasionally leads their managers to adopt somewhat doubtful means of raising money.

An interesting account of the founding of the Royal Free Hospital occurs in a contemporary, which states that this hospital was the first in the metropolis where a destitute person, overtaken by sickness or disease, could find immediate reception. In 1827 Dr. Marsden found a young girl dying in the streets, and removed her to a comfortable room and cared for her. Before she died the poor girl, who was barely seventeen, rallied sufficient to tell him her terrible story. Stricken down, a stranger in London, she had vainly tried to obtain admittance at various hospitals, but in every case, having no one to "recommend" her, as the phrase was, by a letter, she was refused, and—heart-sick, weary, and famishing—she could drag herself no further, and had crawled into the poor shelter some steps afforded in order to die. Dr. Marsden was touched to the quick by her story, and as he had often noticed the difficulty and danger to the sick poor arising from the "letter" system, and through hospitals having only stated days of admission, he resolved to found an institution that should be free from any such restrictions. In addition to being a man of great kindness he possessed unexampled energy, and having formed his project allowed himself, and the friends he knew he could count upon, no rest, until it was fairly on foot.

It is proposed to place the Julia Prinsep Stephen Nursing Fund at St. Ives on a firm footing as a memorial to its founder, Mrs. Leslie Stephen. St.

Ives has no hospital, and there is therefore a pressing need for the services of a district nurse. This was felt by Mrs. Leslie Stephen, and upon her initiative a nurse was engaged about four years ago. It is now proposed, as a suitable memorial to this lady, to raise such a sum as, added to the present subscriptions, and the amount now invested, would afford a security for a continuance of the work in the future.

The metropolitan brigade of the St. John Ambulance Association will provide a large staff for service during the Royal procession on June 22nd. Colonel Bowdler, deputy commissioner, and Chief Superintendent Morgan will accompany the corps, and Mr. S. Osborn, chief surgeon, will have charge of the "first aid" arrangements throughout the route from Buckingham Palace to the City and back. Mr. Osborn will be assisted by eight other surgeons, and 500 ambulance men with hand and horse ambulances will be on duty. All the officers, surgeons, and attendants will wear uniforms. Stretcher parties of four men will be posted in the streets at intervals of about a quarter of a mile, and ambulance omnibuses at intervals of half a mile, and the police-constables will be furnished with lists of stations where stretchers, restoratives, bandages, and splints will be ready for use.

The first detachment of the Russian Red Cross Society left on Wednesday for the seat of the Turco-Greek war. It consists of two doctors and twenty Sisters of Mercy, under the direction of a surgeon, and is supplied with surgical instruments, first-aid appliances, and all the accessories required for a hospital of fifty beds.

The Sultan has given special instructions that the wounded Greeks brought into Ellassona should be treated with every consideration, and he has contributed £11,000 out of his privy purse towards a hospital fund. The Ottoman Bank Ambulance has left for Salonica by special train with fifty beds and hospital appliances.

The Federal Council has informed the Greek and Turkish Governments that an ambulance with nine doctors is about to leave Switzerland for the seat of war.

The *Daily Mail's* correspondent with the Turks was impressed by the horrors of war. "Edhem Pasha pushed on behind his victorious troops. I passed a Turkish soldier who lay with both legs broken, sobbing piteously with pain. And then I hated war. The effects of our artillery fire were hideous to witness in places—bodies torn to bloody pulp, trunks stripped of their members, uniforms burnt and charred. The rifle does its work more cleanly. Rifles, bayonets, swords, belts, shells, cartridges, knapsacks, shakos, and all the *débris* of the battlefield strewed the line of their retreat. Some of them had even cast away their boots. Here and there, in the incredible disorder, lay a dead soldier."

The Executive Committee of the National Fund for the Greek wounded, at its first meeting, which took place on Tuesday, decided to consult Sir William MacCormac, President of the Royal College of Surgeons, concerning the organisation of medical aid for Greece, and it is hoped that a completely equipped ambulance service may be immediately arranged.

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