

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The proprietors of the *Graphic* and *Daily Graphic* have forwarded cheques amounting to £3486 1s. 7d. to the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund, consisting of a profit of £2270 2s. 7d. on the illustrated programme of Her Majesty's Jubilee Procession, and £1215 19s., subscribed by the public through the *Daily Graphic*. In addition, through the same medium, promises by the bankers' order forms

have been received amounting to an annual subscription of £815 3s.

The endowment of the "Princess Mary" bed to be founded at the Chelsea Hospital for Women in memory of the late Duchess of Teck is being actively supported. The first list of subscribers will shortly be announced.

The Charing Cross Hospital is making a public appeal for £100,000, which it is hoped to raise within five years, for the payment of existing liabilities, and to cover the cost of necessary new buildings. Up to date £34,626 18s. 8d. has been promised.

We observe a suggestion, in a letter addressed to the *Times* by Sir Edmund Hay Currie, that payments should be required from the wage-earning classes who attend at the out-patient departments of hospitals. We think the advice thus given is unsound for the following reasons:—If the patients in question can afford to pay the fees of a medical man, a fact which could be elicited upon inquiry by the proposed trained inspector, they should be directed to attend at the private residence of a qualified practitioner. But if they cannot afford this, they should, in our opinion, be treated gratuitously, the duty of their putting any sum, which they feel they can afford, into the box provided in every hospital for contributions to the funds, being pointed out to them; otherwise patients will inevitably, and naturally, consider that by making a small, and totally inadequate, payment, they are paying for the advice which they receive, and the comparison of this sum, with that charged by the general practitioner, is of necessity unfavourable to the latter, and likely to be prejudicial to his interests. The plan of combining business and philanthropy, to the detriment of both, is one which has never commended itself to us.

Dr. Kanthack, M.A., of St. John's College, Cambridge, has been elected professor of pathology in Cambridge University in succession to the late Dr. Roy, whose deputy he was. Dr. Kanthack belongs to a Liverpool family, and was educated partly there and partly in Germany, studying at Berlin under Professors Virchow and Koch.

There is always a certain amount of regret when "the old order changeth, giving place to new," and, although there can be but one opinion, as to the New General Hospital at Birmingham, many of the committee must regret the dismantling of the historic Board Room of the old hospital. In this fine old room have sat several generations of Birmingham men,

whose busts and portraits adorn its walls, and whose services on behalf of the hospital undoubtedly laid the foundations of the great work which has recently been so successfully carried out.

A handsome donation was offered by a visitor to the recent Birmingham Musical Festival to the funds of the Homœopathic Hospital in that city, provided that the sum of £5000 is raised by Christmas. The committee propose to rebuild and equip the older portion of the hospital, and to make provision for an accident ward, an operating theatre, four private wards, room for a second house surgeon, and additional quarters for nurses. The excellence of the nursing arrangements of this hospital, under the supervision of its able matron, Miss Tamar Bean, is well-known, and we do not doubt that the general administration is correspondingly admirable. We hope that the desired sum may be raised by Christmas, and having regard to the proverbial generosity of the citizens of Birmingham, we have little doubt that this will be done.

The twenty-sixth annual meeting of the subscribers and friends of the Ulster Eye, Ear, and Throat Hospital recently took place, and advantage was taken of the occasion to open several new wards, and an operating room. The operation room is lighted by acetylene gas, which, it is said, is more satisfactory for delicate operations than even good daylight. Miss Benn, in declaring the building open, commented upon the good work done by the matrons and nurses, and said that from time to time she had heard much of the sympathetic kindness shown by them to patients.

The Earl of Aberdeen, when he returns from Canada, will receive the honorary membership of the British Medical Association, the highest compliment which the General Medical Council can bestow on a layman. This, of course, is in recognition of the sympathetic interest which the Governor-General of the Dominion exhibited in the recent annual meeting of the Association at Montreal.

It is most gratifying to hear that the surgeons with the Indian Army now engaged in the frontier war are worthily upholding the traditions of the Army Medical Service by their heroism and devotion to duty. It is announced that Major-General Yeatman-Biggs, R.A., has brought specially to the notice of the military authorities in India the distinguished gallantry of several of the medical officers in the action on the Ublan Pass on August 27th. One in particular, Surgeon-Capt. W. G. Beyts, is singled out for mention on account of his heroic conduct. After attending the wounded under a heavy fire, regardless of all consequences to himself, Surgeon-Capt. Beyts carried the body of Lieut. North, who had been wounded, on his back down a hill track too steep for a dhoolie, and thus saved the life of the young officer, who had become faint and powerless from loss of blood. Such deeds are worthy of the Victoria Cross, or the Gold Medal of the British Medical Association.

The half-yearly meeting and election of the British Home for Incurables will be held at Cannon Street Hotel, on Tuesday, 16th November, at 12 o'clock. Mr. F. A. Bevan, the chairman of the institution, will preside.

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