

## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



Sir Fleetwood Edwards, Keeper of Her Majesty's Privy Purse, has just forwarded Her Majesty's sixtieth annual subscription of 100 guineas in aid of the funds of the Royal Scottish Hospital, Crane Court, Fleet Street, London.

The plans for the new pavilion, which is to be erected in connection with the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, in commemoration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, have now been accepted. A feature of the new pavilion is that part of the basement is arranged as a bathing establishment, and contains a Turkish bath, three hot rooms, a needle bath, douche baths of various kinds, a vapour bath, and sulphur and other medicated baths. The three floors above the basement are devoted to wards for the reception of patients suffering from diseases peculiar to women. There are also operating rooms, special wards, waiting rooms, physicians' rooms, and a bedroom and sitting room for the nurse in charge. The attic floor is devoted to bedrooms for nurses and servants. The total cost of the pavilion is estimated at about £40,000. The architects are Messrs. Sydney Mitchell and Wilson, 13, Young Street.

The town of Clifton is suffering from an epidemic of enteric fever. There have been over one hundred cases, and several deaths. It is stated that the local authorities have traced the outbreak to certain sources of milk supply, but on the other hand it is asserted that it is more than possible that the condition of the river Avon has something to do with the epidemic. The unsanitary state of the river has long reflected discredit upon those responsible.

A new nurses' home was recently opened in connection with the Workhouse Infirmary, Crumpsall, by the Lord Mayor of Manchester, Mr. Alderman J. F. Roberts. The new building, which will accommodate forty nurses, has been erected at a cost of £4,000. Mr. Jenner-Fust, Poor Law inspector, paid a tribute to the excellent way in which the Manchester Board managed the poor entrusted to its care, and said that under Miss Hanan, the reputation of the Infirmary was second to none, and he was sure this reputation would be sustained by the present superintendent, Miss Girdlestone.

The report of the sub-committee of the Philanthropic Reform Association upon the North Dublin Union draws attention to a condition of things which, we are glad to believe, will, under the new order of the Local Government Board, become impossible. For instance:—

"For day nursing in the Catholic Hospital, there are nine nuns employed as day nurses to about four hundred and thirty beds, giving a proportion of one to forty-seven patients. In the Protestant Hospital, with one hundred and seventeen beds, there are three trained day nurses—one to thirty-nine patients. At night there are three nuns on duty in the Catholic Hospital, and one trained nurse in the Protestant. With these numbers, it is obvious that the real nursing must, to a large extent, be done by the inmates. We

noticed the large number of wardsmen who were employed in the men's Catholic Hospital—five men in one ward with thirty-four beds.

"The Maternity Hospital is a very bad building, the wards are small and dark, there is no bath room, hot water supply, or sanitary accommodation. There are two iron bedsteads, the rest are narrow beds with straw. There are from eighty to one hundred births a year.

"The little children from two to five, of whom there are about fifty, were at dinner, the food was apparently of good quality, and sufficient, but there was no one to see that they ate it, and as the meat was not cut up, many of them were unable to do so. Three women were serving out the dinner, of whom two were mentally deficient, and incapable of feeding the children properly.

"The lunatics, imbeciles, and epileptics are all kept together in very unsuitable premises; the wards are for the most part dark with a few small windows, and are all very much overcrowded, the beds in some cases touching each other. In one ward, in the women's department, with thirty beds, most of the occupants were bedridden, absolutely helpless, and requiring most careful nursing. There are 136 inmates in the female lunatic department, including the bedridden patients mentioned; many of the epileptics are very helpless, and require a great deal of attention. To give this, there is only one paid official; she is a trained nurse, and very efficient, but her duties are simply overwhelming. Some of the lunatic inmates were working in a very cold dark underground room, and there is an opening from their exercise yard into the deadhouse, which can scarcely be considered a cheerful prospect. There are two isolation cells unheated and only ventilated by windows which are straight opposite the bed.

"The infirm men and women are very crowded; the majority of them have narrow bedsteads; the bedding has to be turned up during the daytime, and in one ward the bedsteads were the only available seats. There are no day rooms and no seats with backs to them. Some of the feeble infirm are bedridden; these have iron bedsteads, but they are nursed by inmates under one paid untrained assistant who has a very large number of infirm to see after.

"The structural defects of this union are so great that it is difficult to see how they can be remedied without building a new hospital. As this is the course which must eventually be taken, we have not made any suggestions about the hospital buildings (such as improving the bath-rooms), which would merely be spending money in trying to improve a radically bad building, but have confined ourselves to suggesting improvements in the furniture and administration."

The plague reports from India are very serious, and in Poona City and the cantonments it shows no signs of abatement. There are 630 patients suffering from plague in the hospitals, and the town is practically deserted—several of the principal streets being closed.

We observe that some amended orders, regarding the segregation of plague patients in Poona City, have been issued. These read excellently on paper, but, having regard to the letter which we publish from a correspondent in another column, and also to the report of Dr. Barry, which we published long since, in which Dr. Barry commented strongly upon the inefficiency of the "paper municipality," we are afraid that a stronger power will be required to give effect to these orders.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)