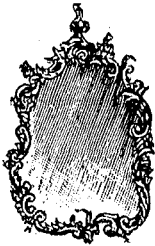


Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



A general meeting of the Council of the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund for London was held on Monday last, at Marlborough House, the Prince of Wales, president of the fund, being in the chair. Lord Rothschild, as treasurer, presented his financial statement, and said that there was, at the present moment, in the Bank of England, and other banks, a sum of £187,000, part of which had been invested in securities. Of this, £20,500 had been received as annual subscriptions, and £1500 as interest from money invested. The income of the fund, therefore, was about £22,000. Further, the fund would receive at the end of the year about £38,000 from the sale of hospital stamps. In addition to these sums, His Royal Highness would have from £38,000 to £40,000 to give to the hospitals as a special donation this year, in commemoration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

The Prince of Wales said that the time had now come to decide how much money should be given to the hospitals. He was anxious both that they should spend the whole of their income, and also that the moneys which were given to the hospitals should benefit these institutions permanently.

The following resolution was proposed by Mr. John Aird, M.P., seconded by the Duke of Norfolk, and agreed to:—"That this council hereby approves and adopts the resolution passed by the executive committee on November 9th, 1897, that, in view of the controversial character of the proposition of the Charity Organization Society to establish a Central Hospitals Board for London, it is inexpedient that the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund for London be associated with the movement."

A letter was also read from the Duke of Westminster, asking the committee to consider the claims of the Queen's Jubilee Institution for Nursing the Sick Poor in their own homes, and to allow that Institution an annual grant from the fund. The Prince of Wales pointed out that, while the Institution was worthy of all support, it was outside the scope of the scheme, and a resolution to this effect was proposed by the Bishop of London, seconded by the Chief Rabbi, and carried.

After Lord Lister had presented the report of the Executive Committee, his Royal Highness commented upon this, and said that he should deplore, for the sake of making a great effect before the public, that they should encroach upon their capital. He was ready to spend every sixpence of the income, but was exceedingly reluctant to draw upon the capital. He thought that they should this year give a sufficient sum of money to open beds and wards now closed, and that, with regard to the distribution of the fund, searching inquiries should be made into the management of the institutions assisted, so that the funds might be wisely administered.

The adoption of the report was moved by Lord Iveagh, and the meeting shortly afterwards terminated.

The Islington Guardians have opened a temporary infirmary to accommodate 300 persons at Highgate.

The building, which was a small-pox hospital, was purchased for £45,000 by the Guardians, and will be used until a new building is erected in the grounds, which extend from Highgate Hill to Dartmouth Park Hill. For the past seven years the board's infirmary has been overcrowded.

At a meeting of the managers of the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, the report of the conference between the Committee of the Senatus of the University and the Committee of the Directors as to the facilities to be given for clinical teaching to the Regius Professor of Surgery was submitted for consideration. The Joint Committee recommended that Professor MacEwen should be allowed to retain possession of Ward 18 as hitherto, and, after a brief discussion, the recommendation was unanimously confirmed. The report has also to be laid before the Senatus of the University, and several other matters have to be considered; but the effect of the decision of the Directors of the Infirmary practically is that the unfortunate misunderstanding with Dr. MacEwen is now at an end, and we feel sure that the Directors have done well to withdraw from an untenable position. Now let them turn their attention to progressive organization in the nursing department.

A Book of the Week.

"DARIEL."*

DARIEL is a book written in its author's own characteristic manner. In fact, it reminds one in many ways quite curiously of Lorna Doone. There is the young, simple-minded, modest, courageous hero, who, like John Ridd, is his own biographer. There is his charming sister, Grace, very like Annie in the more famous book; and, most striking of all, there is the beautiful and mysterious heroine, only beheld by rare glimpses at first, surrounded by an air of remoteness and barricaded walls. The style of narration, however, which seemed exactly the right thing for the brave Dorsetshire yeoman of two centuries ago, when education was rare, and simplicity the leading trait of most provincial Englishmen, sounds oddly enough when put into the mouth of a young English gentleman of our own day, the son of a Surrey Baronet, and educated at Winchester and Oxford. At the opening of the tale, one slips into it with delight, only too pleased to meet it again, and to be transported, by the genius of Mr. Blackmore, to another century and another mode of thought. A casual mention of a railway station is the first jar to one's hopes; and one realizes that, in spite of such phrases as "Tut, tut! What call you that?" we are supposed to be in this present day, and this present land. But, all the way through, one never quite accepts the situation. In spite of a rich stockbroker, who talks of Contango, and settling days, in spite of Harold's sanitation crazes, and in spite of Mr. Stoneman's exquisite tandem, one never really loses the aroma of other days which the writer contrives to fling around us.

There is another thing that helps to keep us deceived. Mr. Blackmore's heroines are not of this century, and no amount of assurance that they were born in it could be convincing. They are the charming, winsome, capricious, unreasoning, coy, yet knowing damsels that

* "Dariel." By R. D. Blackmore. (Blackwood and Sons.)

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