

The Hospital World.

THE EUROPEAN HOSPITAL, MOMBASA,
EAST AFRICA.

At the entrance to the lovely harbour of Mombasa, on a little promontory, stands the European Hospital. It is admirably situated, for it is on high ground, a *sine qua non* in this part of the world if a healthy situation is desired, and, moreover, it is surrounded on three sides by the sea, so that the fresh sea breezes continually sweep through it, and the malarial microbe has long since discovered that, if he wishes to thrive, he must betake himself to fresh fields and pastures new. The Hospital was originally established by the British East African Company, which did such good pioneer work in developing and civilizing this part of the dark continent. Since the dissolution of the Company, however, the Hospital has been taken over by the British Government. It is built in a solid block, there being no internal staircase. The external staircase leads to a wide verandah, and from this verandah there is access to all the rooms by means of the open windows—reaching down to the floor level—with which all the rooms are liberally supplied. The Principal Medical Officer, Dr. W. H. B. Macdonald, was formerly medical man, housekeeper, and nurse, all in one, and admirably played the several parts. Recently, however, some Sisters belonging to a French community have been engaged to undertake the nursing.

The patients are supplied from a wide area. Mombasa is, of course, the starting point, and the goal upon returning to the coast, of a large number of up-country caravans and Government officials, traders, and missionaries, more or less battered, find their way to its hospitable shelter. Again, all sorts and conditions of sailors, sick blue jackets from the men-of-war in the harbour, and occasionally the captain of a merchant vessel, may be found amongst the patients, while the hospital has also established a reputation as a sanatorium, and the mails from the south, from time to time, bring up a patient to recruit his strength after a severe attack of malarial fever.

The view from the windows of the wards, which are usually set wide open, is a charming one. In the foreground is the harbour, where, probably, one or more of the smartest of men-of-war are at anchor, besides a mail steamer, and other smaller craft. In the middle distance, the steep red roofs of the houses at Frere Town peep out from a luxuriant growth of palms, mangoes, and other tropical trees; and behind again the blue hills of the mainland appear, bathed in the bright sunlight, the shadows continually shifting and changing, till the blue of the hills is exchanged almost imperceptibly for that of the still bluer sky of tropical Africa.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



DR. SHUTTLEWORTH and Mrs. Dickenson Berry, M.D., have been appointed by the the School Board for London to take charge of the work in connection with the examination of defective children, and children alleged to be defective. The salary attached to the office is £250. The appointments are for one year.

According to the report just issued, Guy's Hospital just managed to save its financial position for 1897 by a grant from the Prince of Wales's Fund, which enabled it to show a balance in hand of £4,818. Had the grant come a day later, the account would have closed with a deficit of £3,094.

THE forty-sixth annual General Court of Governors of the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, was held last week. In the course of the last year, one thousand, nine hundred and forty-six in-patients, and eighty-four thousand, eight hundred and forty-one out patients were treated. We are sorry to observe that there has been a decrease in the subscriptions and donations to this institution, while owing to a large increase of work, there has been an increase of over £200 in the expenditure.

At the annual meeting of the governors of the Victoria Hospital for Sick Children, at Chelsea, it was decided to take immediate steps to carry out the chairman's proposal that the institution should be rebuilt on an enlarged scale on the ground at their disposal.

At the first meeting of the Metropolitan Asylums Board held since its re-constitution there was a considerable amount of strong feeling expressed with regard to the re-election of Sir Edwin Galsworthy to the chair. Mr. Purchase said he felt it his duty to protest against Sir Edwin's manner to the managers. When members were addressing questions to chairmen of committees, he complained, Sir Edwin would rudely interrupt by calling out "Sit down, don't answer." The chairman, he asserted, commonly interrupted in debate, although it was his duty to hold the reins fairly, and to show no fear or favour. There was a section who could get everything they wanted, while others were constantly ignored. This sounds like a meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association.

The report of the Mary Wardell Convalescent Home for Scarlet Fever, Brockley Hill, Stanmore, is of especial interest, as this is the only institution beyond those of the Metropolitan Asylums' Board which receives patients recovering from scarlet fever. During the past year 250 persons have been admitted to the Home, and the expenditure for the year has been £2,608 10s. 8d. The Committee are appealing for special donations to the extent of £2,000, in order to clear off the debt on the Home, and to provide for the cleaning, painting, white-washing, and general repairs which are greatly needed.

Among later sums received by the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House for the memorial to the Princess

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)