

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE Duke of Cambridge visited Isleworth on the 1st of June, to open formally the new Joint Isolation Hospital intended for the use of the Borough of Richmond and the districts of Hounslow, Isleworth, and Heston. A guard of honour to have been furnished by the 2nd V.B. Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) failed to arrive in time, the Duke being slightly early; but he was received by the Mayor of Richmond (Mr. Albert Chancellor), Mr. Peter Watson, chairman, and other members of the hospital committee. The Duke of Cambridge, replying to an address, said that it gave him especial pleasure to be present when he remembered that it was under the auspices of his sister, the late Duchess of Teck, that the institution was started. Miss Annie Carter from the Lewisham New Infirmary has just been appointed Matron of this new hospital.

The announcement that the Midland Railway Company have purchased Christ's Hospital for the purpose of erecting, thereon, a Great Central Station is a public calamity, and it is to be hoped that it is not true. The fact that St. Bartholomew's Hospital stands back to back with Christ's Hospital, and that many necessary improvements have been deferred by this hospital for years, in the hope of obtaining sufficient ground when Christ's Hospital site was for sale, will make every one who values the splendid work done for seven hundred years at "Barts." grieve sincerely if its development is curtailed. We understand that the Governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital are in negotiation with the Christ's Hospital Council of Almoners for part of the site, the whole area of which amounts to five and a quarter acres, and is valued at between £12,000 and £13,000 an acre!! We cannot, however, think that St. Bartholomew's could carry on its great humanitarian work with any hope of success in close juxtaposition with a great Central Railway Station—the terrible noise and dirt, in connection with which would make the neighbourhood impossible for hospital purposes. How this horribly commercial age gobbles up repose!

The North London Hospital for Consumption contains accommodation for eighty patients, but at the present time only sixty beds are available because the financial position of the hospital is not equal to the demands upon it. It is to be hoped, therefore, that increased public support may be accorded to this institution.

The Duchess of Portland recently visited Charing Cross Hospital with the object of forming a permanent Ladies' Committee in connection with this institution. The Duchess was received by the Treasurer, Chairman, and Medical Staff, and with the other visitors was conducted round the Hospital. The cot formed by the Mayfair branch of the Ministering Children's League, of which Lady Harbord is president, attracted considerable attention.

Next Sunday being Hospital Sunday, it is to be hoped that their will be no falling away in the amounts subscribed by the public. The excuse of having given to the Prince of Wales' Hospital Fund is a somewhat disloyal one to make for not supporting the Hospital Sunday Fund, which has done such good work in the past.

The arrangements for making a gigantic success of the Press Bazaar in aid of the London Hospital are in full swing, and it is now announced that the Princess of Wales will be accompanied by the Duchess of York at the opening ceremony, and some of the most eminent dramatic talent is volunteering its services for the entertainments. The stalls will be twenty-six in number; one will be provided by the London Hospital itself. This will give immense pleasure to the Nursing Staff no doubt.

It is evident that Piper Findlater finds the "Victoria" a somewhat embarrassing "Cross" to bear. We are not surprised that this hero of Dargai has refused the post of gatekeeper at Balmoral at 18s. a week, which is the price at which his services have been estimated by the Duke of Fife. This brave soldier ought to receive a liberal pension from the Nation.

Miss Marion Hunter, who went out to Poona as Plague Medical Officer last November, gives an interesting account of her experience in the *Nineteenth Century*. She throws a very clear light on the difficulties encountered by the Government and the local authorities in dealing with the epidemic. These difficulties are "(1) caste prejudice; (2) superstition and fatalism; (3) native ignorance and distrust of all sanitation; (4) the dishonesty of many native officials, combined with a perfect genius for misrepresenting Government's orders, to suit their own ends; (5) the existence among natives of a freemasonry which enables them to conceal sick or dead friends in a truly wonderful manner.

Far worse than the plague is the inoculation scare now prevalent in Calcutta, says the *Calcutta Englishman*. There is not a chaprassie, servant, or Babu who is not persuaded that orders have gone out that everybody must be forcibly inoculated; and, in support of this belief, cases are quoted of people having been forcibly inoculated in the streets by being pricked on the neck and back with some instrument resembling a lancet. There can be no reasonable doubt that there are some budmashes making capital out of the scare; and so firmly rooted is the idea in the minds of the ignorant people, that nothing short of drastic measures on the part of Government will restore order.

It is stated that it is the custom in China to pay the physician so long as the patient is in good health. We have always had considerable respect for Chin Chan Chinaman, but we shall now believe more firmly than ever in the truth of the saying, "Yellow man, clever man."

"The Synopsis of the British Pharmacopœia" (1898) processes and formulæ, published at the *Pharmaceutical Journal* Office, 5, Serle Street, Lincoln's Inn, W.C., is a useful little booklet, and contains all the alterations, additions, and omissions of the present year. As the price is only fourpence it should have a wide circulation.

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