

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



At a recent meeting of the Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians of London, Dr. William Selby Church, senior physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, was elected president of the college, in the room of Sir Samuel Wilks, Bart., who retires after filling the office for three years. The new president studied at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and graduated as Bachelor of Medicine at Oxford in 1864, proceeding to the doctorate four years later. He became a member of the Royal College of Physicians in 1864, and a Fellow in 1870. From 1890 to 1892 he was Censor of the Royal College, and Senior Censor in 1896. He was Harveian Orator in 1895.

A question has been asked in the House of Commons by Mr. Channing concerning the case of the infant of two days old who was recently vaccinated at Queen Charlotte's Hospital as we reported in a late issue. Mr. Chaplin, President of the Local Government Board, admitted in reply that the child was vaccinated at two days old, being in perfect health at the time. Twenty-eight days after the child was admitted into Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, suffering from infantile eczema. In further reply to Mr. Channing, the President of the L.G.B., said he was communicating with the authorities of the hospital to discourage this early vaccination, upon which (as the questioner reminded him) he himself had expressed a very strong opinion last session.

Mr. John Burns, M.P., in appealing for support for Bolingbroke House at the Battersea Town Hall, pleaded the cause of hospitals generally, and said that, with regard to the London hospitals, the amount of money contributed did not keep pace with either the population or the wealth of the city. In order to place the hospitals on a proper footing, at least £1,000,000 per annum was necessary. It was a question whether the voluntary system, which had been on its trial, was not breaking down.

At the conference of Socialists and Labour members of Local Bodies held at Leeds, Miss HONNOR MORTEN, of the London School Board, read a paper, in which she advocated the establishment of Municipal Hospitals, which had many advantages over competitive Voluntary Hospitals in the matter of uniformity of system and economy of management. That would avoid the present avoidable demoralisation of the system of charity, and also put an end to several other obvious drawbacks.

Dr. M. E. DONALD, of York, said the inefficiency of the present system of general Hospitals was another reason in favour of Municipal Hospitals. The system of Voluntary Hospitals in this country was breaking down, just as the system of Voluntary Schools was breaking down, and for the same reason.

Miss MORTEN, in reply, said that it was quite true that there was in country districts a diminution of the old prejudice against Workhouse Infirmaries, which were becoming more efficient. She hoped the time

would come when these Workhouse Infirmaries would become the local public Hospitals, probably without pauper taint.

Mr. H. W. Newton, medical officer of health for the borough of Chelmsford, in his annual report, recently issued, states that he regrets extremely having to again call attention to the building "which is called the Borough Infectious Hospital." As he reported last year, and the year before, it is absolutely unfit for the purpose it represents. "It is probably," he adds, "the most rudimentary and antiquated infectious hospital that could be found anywhere, and he sincerely hopes that some scheme will be adopted, before the end of the present year, by which Chelmsford will possess an infectious hospital, and that he will have no need to report year after year upon the present obsolete building." We understand that the Corporation are now considering the matter.

The *Daily Chronicle* says pressure is to be brought to bear on members of the Bundesrath to consent to the introduction of a measure which would give women equal rights with men in attending university lectures for medical students, dentists, and apothecaries, and would permit them to be examined and tested in the same way as male students. It is understood that the majority of the German States are in favour of such a measure, but that Prussia is still opposed to it, preferring for the present to permit each medical professor to decide the question for his own lectures. Of the 414 women attending lectures in Prussian universities 300 are over twenty-five years of age. Fifty are Americans.

The New York "Sun" has printed an alarming despatch from Washington, says the *Daily Mail*, stating that an epidemic of cerebro-spinal meningitis, or spotted fever, had occurred there, and had already claimed over thirty victims, nearly two thirds of them adults.

A number of deaths from this disease are also reported from Baltimore and St. Louis.

Many of the victims are soldiers, who were recently mustered out.

The disease is absolutely incurable.

The New York Board of Health is not alarmed, and the officials say that there is no danger of the disease becoming epidemic here.

Philadelphia is suffering from a serious epidemic of typhoid fever, due to foul water supplied by the city. Five hundred and sixty-three cases were reported last week, and the disease is still spreading.

Amongst the munificent bequests of the late Mr. Vincent Stuckey Lean, £20,000 has been left to the orphanage established at Bristol by the late George Muller, £5,000 to Bristol University College, and £1,000 each to King's College Hospital, London, the Bristol General Hospital, the Bristol Children's Hospital, and the Weston-super-Mare Sanatorium.

Baroness Hirsch, née Clara Bischoffsheim, has died at her residence in the Rue de l'Elysee, aged 65 years. She leaves a fortune of several hundred million francs bequeathed for the most part to various works of charity. Her nearest heirs are her late husband's nephews.

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