

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



HER MAJESTY has sent 3,700*l.* to the British Consul at Nice, Sir James Harris, for distribution among various charities, and also a sum of 500*l.* for the endowment fund of Holy Trinity Church.

The bazaar in aid of Charing Cross Hospital will take place on June 21st and 22nd at the Albert Hall.

At a meeting of the friends and supporters of the Royal Free Hospital, held in the Egyptian Hall of the Mansion House, an appeal was made by the Lord Mayor (Sir John Voce Moore) for £8,500, in order to enable the authorities to make important structural improvements in the wards, and to provide better accommodation for the nursing staff. At the close of the meeting subscriptions to the amount of £1,253 were announced, which, with the money in hand, amounted to £4,123.

At the anniversary dinner in aid of the Metropolitan Hospital, Kingsland Road, presided over by Mr. H. L. W. Lawson, L.C.C., the chairman announced that during the past year the number of beds opened had been increased by one-third, and the debt decreased by about one-half. There were a good many beds which ought still to be opened, and he appealed to those present to forge the golden key to unlock the doors now shut. Subsequently, subscriptions and donations amounting to £2,841 were announced.

At the anniversary dinner of the Royal Hospitals for Incurables, Putney Heath, held at the Whitehall Rooms, subscriptions to the amount of £1,592 were announced.

The Volunteer Medical Service hopes that a representative from their corps will, before long, be appointed on to the Central British Red Cross Committee. This suggestion seems reasonable.

The donation of £50 announced by Mr. William Bousfield at the annual meeting of the Metropolitan Nursing Association was by the Clothworkers' Company, and not, as reported, the Salters' Company.

For many years past complaints have been heard of the lack of hospital accommodation for children in the poor and populous districts south of the Thames. Whilst on the other side of the river there is one cot for 3,523 inhabitants, South London has only one cot for 12,563. With a view to making up for this deficiency the governors of the Belgrave Hospital, founded thirty years ago in Pimlico, have resolved to move the institution across the water to Kennington. A site has been secured in the Clapham Road, near St. Mark's Church, but the sum of £50,000 is required for the building. In order to raise this amount the Lord Mayor has convened a meeting at the Mansion House on the afternoon of May 12th, when the Duke of

Westminster, the Duke of Marlborough, the Bishop of Rochester, and Dr. Farquharson, M.P., will speak on behalf of the project. Tickets and full information will be supplied on application to Mr. F. Stuart, Secretary to the Building Fund, 77, Gloucester Street, S.W.

Another important part of the scheme for the modernisation and improvement of the Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, has been completed, the new dormitories for the nurses being now ready for occupation. The improvements at the Hospital were proposed and laid before the public as far back as 1894, but such a work has, of course, to be accomplished step by step, and though more remains to be done, this latest addition to the hospital buildings will prove of very great benefit to the institution.

For many years the accommodation for the nurses was in the basement and other unsuitable parts of the hospital, and temporary quarters were afterwards secured by the rental of houses in the neighbourhood. As regards the working of the institution, however, this arrangement was even more inconvenient, and the necessity became apparent for the erection of proper dormitories, a site for which was chosen within the walls of the hospital grounds, though at some distance from the main building. Accommodation is provided for fifty nurses, each having a separate bedroom, while four bath-rooms, two sitting-rooms, and various convenient and domestic offices were also provided. The building is fitted with the best modern appliances throughout; it is lighted with electricity and heated with hot water, and two outside iron staircases afford provision in case of fire.

A number of kind gifts have been received towards the furnishing of the new building, but furniture for the sitting rooms is still required. There are several portions of the scheme deemed necessary in 1894 still remaining to be done, but the committee hope that when the public realise to what an extent the welfare and comfort of the patients has been advanced, and the administration of the hospital improved by what has been effected, sufficient funds will be forthcoming to enable them to proceed with the work. The opening of the new dormitories is fixed for Saturday, May 13th, and it is hoped Sir Henry Harben will preside.

The plans for the reconstruction of the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, do not meet with the approval of the medical and surgical staff, and they have embodied their dissatisfaction in the following resolution: "That this meeting of the staff, having carefully considered the plans submitted, and compared the accommodation therein provided with that indicated in the staff's memorandum of April 19th, 1898, finds the accommodation shown to be defective in many essential particulars."

Margate, in common with others on the Kentish coast, has lately been agitated by reason of much mortality among dogs, giving rise to the suspicion of poisoning. The borough veterinary surgeon reports, however, that the malady is in reality due to a virulent form of canine influenza. In this immediate neighbourhood the complaint has been in existence two or three months. Death usually occurs in fatal cases from the third to the eighth day.

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