

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The Queen has forwarded a donation of £25 to the Secretary of the British Home for Incurables, in response to his appeal, in aid of the Completion Fund for the erection of the New Wing, the foundation stone of which was laid by the Earl Amherst on May 30th.

The Queen has sent a donation of £50 to the Royal Maternity Charity, Finsbury Square, in aid of which a festival dinner is to be held on the 21st inst., under the presidency of Dr. Fancourt Barnes.

The Duke of Fife, speaking at the opening of St. Mary's Hospital Bazaar, said that it was useless to disguise the fact that the condition of London hospitals was very serious, not to say alarming. If the hospitals were not supported he believed that it would be indispensable some day to place them on the rates, a momentous change, and one which he personally would deplore.

There was opened at the Royal Eye Hospital, St. George's Circus, Southwark, last week, a new ward, called the "Stock Exchange Ward." The addition contains seven free beds, and is the result of the donations received at the recent annual banquet of the hospital, presided over by Mr. W. M. Chinnery. During last year the total receipts were £2,739, while the expenditure was £3,033. A balance in hand at the commencement of the year was absorbed, and a deficit of £2 remained, but in order to keep the expenditure down, 14 beds were closed. The statistics showed that 16,685 sufferers from eye disease or injury were relieved during these twelve months, the cost per case being only 3s. 8d. Professor McHardy, the senior surgeon, said it was particularly gratifying to the council of the hospital to have this new ward, and they deeply appreciated the generosity of the members of the Stock Exchange. The hospital was doing an excellent work. In South London, with its population of 1,554,847, there were available but 986 free hospital beds, as compared with 3,975 for the 2,687,271 of population north of the river, so that there was a proportional deficiency of fully 1,300 free beds for the poor sufferers of South London.

Mr. John K. Hichens, chairman of the Stock Exchange, in declaring the ward open, said this institution deserved special support owing to the nature of its work. There was no other affliction which befell humanity that enlisted so much sympathy as disease or injury to the eyes. He had recently to decide whether he would become blind or an imbecile. He was riding in a train with his back to the engine, and a doctor told him that this practice would affect his mind, and in time he would become an imbecile. On another occasion he was facing the engine, and a different doctor informed him that his eyes were not used to see objects in such rapid succession, and unless he rode with his back to the engine, he would become blind. He preferred to be an imbecile rather

than lose his sight. At the conclusion of the ceremony the visitors inspected the building.

The annual meeting of the supporters of Friedenheim Hospital, a home of peace for the dying, Upper Avenue Road, South Hampstead, was held on Thursday in the hall at the School for the Blind, an adjoining institution. Mr. J. Herbert Tritton, chairman of the council and hon. treasurer of the institution, presided. Friedenham was founded by Miss F. M. Davidson, the hon. superintendent, in 1885, at Mildmay, and was removed to South Hampstead in 1892. The number of beds is forty-two. The expenditure for the past year was £3,600, and there is now a deficit of £300. The chairman explained that the word "hospital" had been added to the title, because it was found that the word "Friedenheim" by itself had often to be translated. He also explained that Friedenheim was intended only for those in the last stages of illness, and not for chronic invalids. Dr. S. H. Habershon, Mr. Algernon C. P. Coote, Canon Girdlestone, and Dr. A. T. Schofield addressed the meeting, and urged the necessity for continued and increased support of the institution, which, since its removal to South Hampstead, had received 600 persons, of whom 440 had passed away in the peaceful surroundings the hospital affords. The great need at present is the provision of proper accommodation for the nurses, at least £3,000 being required to carry out the work. In addition to the gain to the nursing staff, their removal to new quarters will set free some of the rooms now occupied by the nurses for the use of patients.

At the last meeting of the Society for the Abolition of Vivisection it was resolved to accept a bequest of £10,000 left to the society by its founder, the late Mr. George Richard Jesse, who died in June of last year, and offices have now been opened for the transaction of the society's business, in accordance with the terms of the bequest, at 62, Strand.

Mr. Herbert Lloyd, one of the proprietors of the *Daily Chronicle*, who died at Falmouth on May 12, 1899, has left the sum of £1,000, free of legacy duty, to the Caxton wing of the Morley House Seaside Convalescent Home at St. Margaret's Bay, near Dover, consisting of three wards, which is devoted to the printing and allied trades.

The Sanitary Congress is this year to be held at Southampton, from August 29th to September 3rd.

The Lecture to the Congress will be delivered by Mr. Malcolm Morris, F.R.C.S. Edin., M.R.C.S. Eng., and the popular lecture will be delivered by Bailie J. Dick, J.P., Chairman of the Health Committee, Glasgow. A Health Exhibition of Apparatus and Appliances relating to Health and Domestic use is being arranged in connection with the Congress.

Another handsome gift to Paisley is announced from Mr. Peter Coates, and consists of a splendidly equipped block for the Paisley Infirmary to accommodate infectious cases. The block will be two stories, and will have six beds for patients, beds for nurses, sitting rooms, and all modern conveniences. Mr. Coates has lavishly bestowed his money on Paisley's new infirmary. He also built the Nurses' Home, costing about £10,000.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)