

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE Duchess of York recently opened a new wing of the Royal Cambridge Asylum for Soldiers' Widows at Kingston-on-Thames. The new premises include a ward, which has been named "The Princess Mary Ward," in recognition of the interest taken in the institution by the late Duchess of Teck. Accompanying the Duchess of York were the Duke of York, the Duke of Cambridge, and Prince and Princess Edward of Saxe-Weimar. The Duke and Duchess, after inspecting the building, returned to town.

The Committee of Management of the Great Northern Central Hospital have opened the last remaining unused ward, containing 25 beds. This raises the number of beds in the Hospital to 160. The ward has been opened as the direct result of a grant made by the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund, conditionally upon certain additional beds being made available for use.

The Chelsea Hospital for Women will be closed to in-patients from the middle of July to the end of September, in order to permit of the following necessary alterations and improvements being carried out:— Enlargement and modernising of operating theatre, new hot-water service, new lift, installation of electric light. These improvements will cost nearly £3,000, and in view of the great pressure at which the work of the hospital is carried on, they can be no longer delayed. An appeal is being made for assistance towards defraying this expenditure. The out-patient department will be closed during August only.

A heated discussion took place at the recent meeting of the Lambeth Guardians on a motion that the Local Government Board should be asked to hold an enquiry into the case of a young widow who, during a residence of five years in the Renfrew Road Workhouse, had had two illegitimate children. Miss Grey (to the credit of womankind be it said, it was a woman who had the courage to attack the subject) stated that there was general mismanagement, and made definite charges in corroboration of her statement. It was further found by the porter's book that Guardians had time after time accepted the master's hospitality to eleven or twelve o'clock at night, and it was stated that these gentlemen afterwards came to meetings and spoke in his defence.

The late Mr. John Hall, J.P., of Newcastle, has bequeathed to the trustees of the Newcastle Infirmary the sum of £100,000, for the building and furnishing of the new infirmary. The conditions attached to the bequest are that the subscriptions promised to the Queen's Commemoration New Infirmary Fund, to the extent of at least £100,000, shall be actually paid over to the committee before the trustees can claim the bequest. If this sum is not raised within three years the bequest will be lost.

The first stone of the new Boscombe Hospital at Bournemouth was laid yesterday with full Masonic ceremony. Two pavilions (of three which are to supplement the new administration block) are now to be erected, and the estimated cost is £8,000, towards which one-half has been received. Among those present at the ceremony were Sir John and Lady Thursby, Sir Matthew and Lady Dodsworth, Captain H. K. Balfour, Mrs. Maberly, the local clergy, and members of the Corporation. The laying of the stone was performed by Mr. W. W. Beach, M.P., Provincial Grand Master of Hampshire. A public luncheon followed, presided over by Sir John Thursby.

One of the great needs of the Preston and County of Lancashire Royal Infirmary has been an operating theatre fitted with the latest scientific appliances for the treatment of disease. This want however has now been met by the offer of Dr. R. C. Brown to the Diamond Jubilee Fund Sub-Committee to defray the cost of a new operating theatre, at an approximate cost of £2,000. The Jubilee Fund, which amounts to £8,000, is to be expended chiefly on structural alterations, the chief of these being a new wing for the nurses, to be called the Victoria Diamond Jubilee Wing.

What a woman will endure, because she "does not want to say anything," was evidenced by the case of Mary Campbell who appeared at a Glasgow Police Court on a Tuesday morning, and who was found by the casualty surgeon to have sustained a fracture of the right arm, injury to her ribs, bruises on the arms and face, both eyes blackened, and one otherwise injured; and also suffering from erysipelas. The injuries were stated by her to have been inflicted by her husband on the previous Saturday. Even then it was seven hours before she could obtain admission to a hospital. There is surely something very wrong in the arrangements of hospitals which refuse to admit a woman in this condition; who is, moreover, suffering from an infectious disease which she may communicate to those with whom she comes in contact.

There are at present forty-four cases of small-pox in hospital at Hull, and one case isolated away from the hospital.

Dr. J. P. Doyle, of Dublin, has written to the Trades Council drawing attention to the injurious effects that follow from having the wards of all the City hospitals closed at the same time every year for cleansing purposes. He is, he states, thoroughly in accord with the Trades' Council, who, for the sake of the suffering poor, wish the rotation system introduced, as he believes it is not altogether for cleansing purposes that this plan is adopted. He proposes that a letter should be sent to the Corporation, pointing out the desire of the Trades' Council for the introduction of the rotation system, and states that if the Corporation takes action and the hospitals do not carry out the system, he will not be in favour of the continuance of grants to them. We have often, in this journal, commented on the hardship entailed on the poor by the closing of hospitals in the summer, and are glad to see that the matter is being taken up elsewhere.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)