

**The Hospital World.****THE ROYAL ORTHOPÆDIC HOSPITAL.**

THE Earl and Countess of Denbigh were "at home" at the Royal Orthopædic Hospital, 15, Hanover Square, on Monday last, the Earl of Denbigh being President of the Hospital. Many of the friends of the institution availed themselves of the opportunity of inspecting the wards, which were *en fete*, and although the hospital has, until lately, been closed for necessary sanitary repairs, all the 50 beds, with the exception of 3, had occupants.

On arrival the guests were shown into the Board Room, where were on view photographs of the wards of the hospital. The beautiful old ceiling of this room attracted much attention.

Tea was served in an adjoining room, and then the visitors passed on, up the old staircase, to the wards. The wards, of which the largest contains 10 beds, have been refloored with blocks of polished wood, the walls, which were formerly papered, have been stripped, painted salmon colour, and varnished, so that they are now washable, and the wood work stands out in all the glory of peacock blue. The quilts are of crimson woollen material, which, unfortunately, on being washed, turns scarlet in colour.

Besides the repainting and decorating of the wards, the Committee have been obliged to undertake, at a cost of about £2,000, the re-drainage of the hospital, this being necessitated by an outbreak of fever. They hope, therefore, that the friends of the institution will enable them to defray this heavy expenditure by generous contributions.

The nursing staff of the hospital, I was informed, are a Matron, four day nurses, and a night nurse, a staff which seems small in comparison to the number of patients. Orthopædic patients, it is true, are usually lengthy cases, so that there is not the constant change, and consequent work, which results in a general hospital; but still, many of the patients are children who require to be washed and fed, and other cases—as, for instance, one of Dupuytren's contraction, in which the patient had one hand already operated upon in a sling, and the other so contracted as to be of little use to him—must need a considerable amount of attention.

The institution is open to sufferers who may need its benefits from all parts of the British Empire, who need not necessarily produce subscribers' letters. The only condition made is that the hospital shall be reserved for the benefit of the poor, for whom it is intended. It is to be hoped that the friends of the Royal Orthopædic will rally round it and provide funds not only to maintain, but also to extend its work.

M. B.

**Reflections**

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



BRISTOL was beside itself with enthusiasm on the occasion of the Queen's visit on Wednesday, to open the Convalescent Home erected as a memorial of her Jubilee. With characteristic thoughtfulness Her Majesty drove through some of the poorer parts of the city so that the working classes had an opportunity of expressing their loyalty to their Sovereign. On arrival at the Home, which stands on the borders of Clifton Down, the Queen opened the doors by pressing an electric button. The Matron, Miss Ellis, had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty.

The Mansion House Transvaal War Fund has now reached nearly £200,000. The Refugees' Fund amounts to over £164,000, of which £160,000 has been sent out to Sir Alfred Milner.

It is stated that it is proposed to hold an international conference on the subject of malaria in Liverpool early in the summer of next year. The conference will be under the auspices of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine; and it is expected, from the favourable manner in which the proposal has been received in scientific quarters here and abroad, that the attendance will be fully representative of those who have given special attention to investigating malarial and other tropical diseases.

A case of plague has been reported from Lisbon. A doctor from the plague hospital at Oporto has arrived, and the disease is not likely to spread. King Charles, accompanied by an aide-de-camp, visited the Italian doctor Pestana in the plague ward of the hospital. His Majesty and the officer attending him, on entering the hospital, were furnished with specially prepared blouses to prevent contagion.

The plague, which was announced to have appeared in Algeria some time ago, has claimed several victims at Philippeville and at Bougie, in the province of Constantine. Dr. Chantemesse left some days ago for Constantine in order to study the disease and the means of prevention. Several soldiers and civilians are at present under treatment, the former being the more numerous.

A Manila correspondent of an American newspaper says that the Filipinos do not bury their dead under ground, but in tiers of masonry. In Manila, Paco Cemetery is the most important place of burial. The high walls of masonry in which are the long vaults; each the size for one body, are built in circles, one within the other, with a walk between. As the coffin is thrust in the vault the mourners rend the air with their wails, but they stand by quietly while it is sealed with bricks and mortar; when the final crevice has been filled they quietly disperse. These vaults are hired, not bought, of the church, and when the rent is not forthcoming the body is torn out, no matter in what state of preservation, and the vault rented to some one else who can afford to pay. The bones thus desecrated are thrown in a heap in a place prepared for the purpose, where there is a large and gruesome collection.

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