

## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The long deferred meeting of the Welsbach Incandescent Gas Company, was held on Friday last week, and Sir Henry Burdett, who presided, and the management were severely criticised by some of the shareholders present. General Russell, M.P., moved the appointment of a committee to make a full investigation and recommendation as to the future management and construction of the company, and the motion was seconded by Mr. P. Stanhope, M.P. The Directorate, however, pleaded for a further trial, and ultimately the resolution was withdrawn. The chairman, Sir Henry Burdett, had previously agreed to the reduction of his huge salary by one half, to take £1,500 instead of £3,000 for 1900-1, until a dividend was declared on the deferred shares, and the other Directors had agreed to take £300 each in fees instead of £500. It is preposterous that enormous salaries should be paid to men, who have failed to make the company a success, and during whose management the shares have become almost worthless in the financial market.

The recent report of the Paddington Green Children's Hospital shows that the endeavours of the Committee to strengthen the financial position of the hospital have met with some success. The debt at the bankers has been reduced by £300, and the annual subscriptions, the most reliable source of income, have increased. The passenger lift, for which special subscriptions to the extent of £400 were invited, has been completed, and the cost, with the exception of a few pounds, defrayed. A Röntgen ray apparatus has also been purchased.

The Helen Prideaux Memorial Scholarship, value £50, will be awarded in July, 1900, to a graduate of the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women. Candidates must be registered medical women, of not more than three years' standing on June 1st, 1900, and must send in to the trustees, under cover to the secretary, an essay on some medical subject, on or before July 15th, 1900. The Trustees will attach special value to the evidence afforded of clinical work and of direct and personal experience.

There is a diversity of opinions amongst Boards of Guardians concerning the desirability of appointing women as medical officers to their infirmaries. The West Ham Guardians have recently appointed a resident lady doctor, while at the Mile End Infirmary the proposal that a similar appointment should be thrown open to women as well as men as "men did not have the monopoly of intelligence or medical skill" did not meet with the approval of the majority of the Guardians, and the clerk observed that if a woman were appointed the appointment of another male doctor would be necessitated, for there would be "many cases which out of common decency a woman could not treat." A lady guardian pointed out that these cases were nursed by women, but the proposal was rejected.

The first degree of Doctor of Medicine bestowed on a woman in Sweden was recently conferred by the Carolina Institute of Stockholm on Fraulein Anna Stecksén. The subject of the lady's dissertation was Studies of Curtis's Blastomycete from the point of view of the Etiology of Tumours. Fraulein Stecksén pursued her studies partly in the Pasteur Institute of Paris under Dr. Roux, and partly in the bacteriological laboratory of the Carolina Institute at Stockholm.

Anti-vivisectionists will receive with unmeasured joy the assurance by Sir James Wolfe Barry that the clinical laboratories opened recently at Westminster Hospital by Lord Lister, are not to be used for animal experiments, but will be confined to the elucidation of disease in the hospital itself. The new department is divided into two sections, one for bacteriological and the other for histological research, and will be in charge of Dr. Lazarus-Barlow; as pathologist.

The Hospital for Epilepsy and Paralysis has received from the executors of Mr. J. W. N. Bentley a munificent gift of £5,000, and from the trustees of Smith's (Kensington) Charity, a grant of £50.

A meeting will be held in Hyde Park on Sunday, 24th June, at 6 p.m., to demand the repeal of the Vivisection Acts, and to advocate the popular control of hospitals. The Hon. Secretary of the South-Western Anti-Vivisection Society, is Mr. F. Longman, 71, Beaufort Street, Chelsea.

It is most deplorable that the friction between the Lieutenant-Governor of Burmah and the European community of Rangoon respecting the management of the Dufferin Hospital should have become a public scandal. *Truth* says:—

"Owing to the dissatisfaction aroused by Sir Frederick Fryer's high-handed interference with the management, the Municipal Council of Rangoon reduced their grant to the hospital from Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 2,000. By some more or less audacious manoeuvring, however, the President of the Council set aside the decision of the majority of the members and restored the grant to its former amount, with the natural result that local feeling on the subject was greatly intensified. It is now proposed to bring a lawsuit against the President to raise the question of the validity of the steps he took, and as he acted simply as a nominee of the Lieutenant-Governor, the case will virtually resolve itself into a fight between his Excellency and the European community. The spectacle of a community going to law with their Lieutenant-Governor is, I should think, unique in the history of India."

Particulars of the mortality caused by the bubonic plague in the one city of Bombay have now been published. The first epidemic of 1896-97 lasted 139 days and slew 28,418, with a maximum death rate of 226 per 1,000. The second of 1898 lasted 115 days, and swept off 28,869 human beings, at the rate of 165 per 1,000. The third visitation, beginning January, 1899, lasted 131 days, with a total mortality of 31,260 and death rate of 160 per 1,000. The present epidemic began in November last, and up to April 30th, killed so many as 50,383 with a maximum death rate of 209½ per 1,000. It is still going on.

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