

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The thirty-sixth anniversary service of the Guild of St. Luke was held at St. Paul's Cathedral, on Wednesday in last week. About 1,000 medical practitioners were present, including several women, who wore the robes of their degrees, and took part in the procession of the Guild, which followed immediately after the choir and clergy. Noticeable amongst these was Mrs. Scharlieb, M.D., who occupied one of the reserved seats immediately under the dome, and who wore her robes with a dignity unexcelled by any of those present.

Guy's Hospital has once again figured at an inquest, (held at the hospital, before Mr. S. F. Langham) for sending away from the hospital a child who subsequently died of meningitis. On the advice of a local practitioner, the mother took the child, aged three, to the hospital. She had fallen from some railings, and pitched on her head, and subsequently lost her eyesight and the use of her left leg. The child was refused admission, and the mother was told to bring it again the next morning, which she did, though she did not get home till two o'clock that night, which was bitterly cold. She was then told to bring it up again the same evening, and again was sent away. The child was admitted the following Monday evening, and died four days afterwards.

The house physician who admitted the child said that its life would not have been saved if it had been taken in at once, as "meningitis always proves fatal." This, however, cannot be advanced as an adequate reason for sending the child away. After hearing the evidence the jury found a verdict of natural death, but added a rider that the hospital authorities ought to be censured for sending the child away at such a time of night, when it was dying.

The Coroner: I have recorded a verdict of natural death.

The Foreman (after consultation): I must ask you, Mr. Coroner, to put our rider on the depositions.

The Coroner: I must decline. The hospital doctor acted on the best of his judgment.

A Juror: There is not one dissentient amongst us, and we all agree that the hospital authorities ought to be very severely censured.

The Coroner: I am sorry to say I cannot agree with you.

The Juror: We are all fathers of families, and we like to see children treated as human beings, and not as dogs, like they treat them at Guy's. (Hear, hear.)

The Mother: My husband subscribed to—

The Coroner: You kept us waiting before the inquest, and I am not going to allow you to further prolong this inquiry.

The jury were dismissed, but they audibly complained of the action of the Coroner.

Lord Pirbright has severed his connexion with the Bisley Homes, and resigned the trusteeship of the land, which he presented, and upon which the Homes are built.

The "Dowie Riots" have not reflected credit on the budding members of a learned profession. The professor may be a "colossal humbug," but that is no reason for riotous and unseemly behaviour on the part of those who claim to be gentlemen.

Mr. John Caldecott, a barrister, has bequeathed £1,000 each to King's College Hospital, the Children's Hospital, Great Ormond Street, and the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital, 259, Oxford Street.

The Goldsmiths' Company have sent a donation of £100 to the Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, City Road, E.C.

A new out-patient department for mental disorders has been opened at the Charing Cross Hospital.

Mr. Robert Arthington, formerly of Leeds, who died recently at Teignmouth, has bequeathed £12,000 to Leeds Infirmary and £8,000 towards a new hospital for women and children.

The heirs of the Marquess of Bute are directed to keep up the hospitals at Aberdare and Cumnock, established by him, and the institutions for children at Rothsay and Oban; £20,000 are left for the completion of the Cardiff Hospital, which takes the place of the Cardiff hospital ship *Hamadryad*.

The Medical Staff of the Welsh Hospital returned from South Africa in the *Saxon*, which arrived last week. Two days after leaving Cape Town Professor Hughes developed enteric fever, and was for some time in a critical condition. The present accounts of him are, we are glad to say, satisfactory, but he was, of course, carried on shore, and was put in a special saloon attached to the London train. This hospital has suffered severely during the campaign. In one "black week" in June it lost three of the staff, Sister Sage dying on the 12th, Dr. Davies on the 15th, and Professor Tom Jones on the 18th. Mr. Eames, one of the dressers, also died at Springfontein. The nursing staff and orderlies are remaining at Pretoria for a short time, and the hospital will be used as a convalescent hospital under the supervision of Colonel Keogh.

Mr. William Thorburn, F.R.C.S. England, Senior Honorary Assistant Surgeon, has been unanimously appointed an Honorary Surgeon of the Manchester Royal Infirmary, in succession to Mr. Walter Whitehead, resigned. Mr. Whitehead was, at the same time, appointed Honorary Consulting Surgeon.

The P. and O. steamer *Valetta*, from Alexandria, has arrived at Marseilles, having on board Dr. Koch, the well-known German *Savant* and bacteriological specialist, accompanied by Dr. Olwig, one of his most brilliant assistants. Dr. Koch has been studying in Egypt the bacillus of African fever, and his work has been crowned with complete success. He declares himself highly satisfied with the results of his mission.

A professorship for the teaching of massage has been founded at Berlin University.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)