

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The London Fever Hospital should receive much more substantial support from the public than appears to be the case—to judge from the report presented at the late annual meeting. It was stated that there had been an increasing demand for the admission of diphtheria cases, and they had had to refuse some for want of room. They had also been obliged to decline several cases of typhoid, desiring to confine themselves to diseases not received elsewhere. Though there had been a slight increase in the subscriptions, they continued to suffer from the withdrawal of subscriptions which were sent to the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund. That had been pointed out to the committee, and they had granted £500 instead of £200 as in the previous year. It was calculated, however, that their loss was nearly £2,000. The committee had drawn attention to the unsatisfactory character of the older parts of the hospital, but the available funds did not permit of reconstruction at present. If some benevolent philanthropist would give them £15,000 or £20,000 they would set about the improvements at once.

A new organ has been recently placed in the chapel of the City of London Hospital, Victoria Park, at a cost of £300, which has been met by voluntary subscriptions.

At the annual meeting of the Royal Southern Hospital, at Liverpool, recently, reference was made to the success of the ward devoted to patients suffering from tropical diseases. There had been 139 such patients under treatment, 47 of them foreigners. One patient suffered from beri-beri, with its attendant paralysis, and had to be kept under treatment for 111 days before being discharged completely cured. The Lord Mayor commended the work of the tropical school, while the Bishop of Liverpool described the splendid treatment of West African natives as a remarkable exhibition of the practical part of Christianity. Mr. Alfred L. Jones said that with the assistance of the Royal Southern Hospital and University College, Liverpool had taken the lead in the great work of the study of tropical diseases. Towards the debt of £7,000 on the Royal Southern Hospital, Mr. A. L. Jones, for Elder, Dempster and Co., and Mr. F. J. Harrison (T. and J. Harrison) each gave £500.

After years of discussion of pros and cons, it has been decided to rebuild the Manchester Royal Infirmary on the fine central site, upon which the present hospital stands. Upon the application of the Council of the Owens College, and with the concurrence of the medical staff, it has been decided to admit women students to the hospital practice of the infirmary. A recommendation has also been submitted to the trustees at the special meeting to the effect that the Medical Board shall have power to elect annually four of their number to serve on the Board of Management.

Amongst the memorials proposed to perpetuate the memory of Queen Victoria there are many suggestions with regard to improving and adding to our hospitals, and these are most appropriate as the late Queen always took a deep interest in the alleviation of suffering. A project is already afloat for bringing the Kidderminster Infirmary and Children's Hospital up to date, and a proposal for a Queen Victoria Memorial was laid before the subscribers at the recent Annual Meeting by Dr. Lionel Stretton. It is the desire of the Committee, and of the Lady Superintendent, Miss Annie Barling, that not only the patients but the nurses should benefit by the scheme. It is therefore proposed that a new operating theatre shall be built, and that the present theatre shall be utilised as a nurses' dining and sitting room. Both these improvements are much needed, for the present theatre was built thirty years ago, and medical science has made such strides that any theatre which has not been rebuilt or completely modernised within the last decade is out of date. At present the nurses have to use the board room as dining and sitting-room, and when board meetings are held no room is available for their use. We hope, therefore, to hear that the proposed scheme will be speedily taken in hand.

The Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, has had another magnificent legacy. Mr. David Ainslie—who has left £440,505—directs that the residuary estate shall be applied at the expiration of ten years for the purpose of erecting the Astley Ainslie Institution for convalescents of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.

Owing to the great increase of enteric fever throughout South Africa a deputation from the Mayoral Congress, representing all the municipalities of South Africa, had an interview lately with Sir J. Gordon Sprigg, the Premier. Mr. O'Reilly, Mayor of Capetown, who acted as spokesman, urged the formation of health boards and the granting of increased powers to the municipalities in regard to sanitation. The Premier recognised the gravity of the matter, and stated that the Government was preparing to render all possible assistance with a view to preventing an epidemic.

One of the most dramatic incidents in the South African war was the meeting of Sir George White and Lord Dundonald, when the cavalry leader rode in to tell beleaguered Ladysmith that the long-expected relief was at hand. The scene has been strikingly depicted by Mr. J. H. Bacon, and a handsome reproduction of the picture, well framed, is being given away, on certain conditions, by Bovril, Limited, to purchasers of their fluid beef.

The robe worn by the King at the opening of Parliament was made by Messrs. Wilkinson and Son, in conjunction with Messrs. Debenham and Freebody, and in its manufacture historic precedents have been faithfully followed.

Some lovely bits of antique furniture are being offered for sale by Messrs. Debenham and Freebody in Wigmore-street at a great reduction. The reduction of stock has become necessary owing to the accumulation of furniture, especially antiques, beyond the capacity of the allotted space.

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