

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



Professor Finsen, the originator of the light cure for lupus, is shortly coming to London at Queen Alexandra's special request in order to look after the light cure installation which her Majesty has introduced at the London Hospital.

Mr. Alfred Harmsworth has given £10,000 to the London Hospital, Whitechapel, to endow one of the three lamps started there for the light cure of lupus.

In answer to Sir W. Foster, Mr. Brodrick stated in the House of Commons, that the number of cases of enteric among the troops in South Africa during the first nineteen days of April was 1,052 and the number of deaths 142. The number of cases of plague among the forces, according to latest advices, was fourteen soldiers, twenty native drivers, and eight other employés. There had been no deaths among the soldiers.

Wednesday, June 5th, the anniversary of the occupation of Pretoria, is the date fixed for a dinner at which will be present the civilian medical men, whether attached to the R.A.M.C. or to private hospitals, who served in the South African campaign. A provisional committee has been formed, of which Mr. Anthony Bowlby is chairman.

Mr. Balfour presided last week at a festival held at the Hotel Cecil in support of the London Polyclinic, and advocated its claims as a means of increasing the knowledge of the general practitioner, and advancing medical science as a whole. As a result the institution will benefit by about £1,600.

At a special general meeting of the governors of the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital Lord Hillingdon was appointed treasurer in the place of the late Mr. John Deacon.

At a meeting of the Court of Common Council recently the Lord Mayor presiding, a report was read from the City Lands Committee on the Christ's Hospital and St. Bartholomew's Hospital Bills in Parliament. The report stated that having regard to the great public interest involved, the committee were not prepared to recommend any opposition being offered to the acquisition by St. Bartholomew's Hospital of the land occupied by Christ's Hospital, which would become vacant by the removal of the school to Horsham. The report was carried.

A dramatic and musical entertainment on behalf of the Charing Cross Hospital on the afternoon of June 11th, will take place at Stafford House, which will be lent by the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland. Mr. Tree (vice-president of the hospital) and Mrs. Tree are preparing the programme.

The retirement, on June 1st, is announced of Surgeon-General J. Jameson, C.B., Director-General of the Army Medical Service.

The contract for the erection of the new Royal Infirmary at Newcastle-on-Tyne has been given to Mr. Samuel Warburton, of Miles Platting, Manchester, whose tender is close upon £200,000.

Mr. William Quarrier has received another gift of £2,895 4s. 6d. for the enlargement, alterations, heating, and electric lighting of his Consumptive Sanatorium, from the same friends in the East of Scotland who gave the money to build the first.

Mrs. Eliza Mackenzie, of Clarkhill Stand, Lancaster, who died on February 15th, bequeathed £525 to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, £210 each to the British Orphan Asylum and the Royal Hospital for Incurables at Putney, £105 each to the British Home for Incurables, the Northern Counties Hospital for Incurables at Manchester, the Scottish Hospital Corporation, the Ragged School Union, the National Benevolent Institution, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and the Temporary Home for Lost and Starving Dogs in Battersea Park Road, £52 10s. each to the Infant Orphan Asylum and the London Orphan Asylum, and £21 each to numerous other charitable institutions.

A critic of a South African book calls attention to the explanation of the cause of the spread of fever. It is attributed to floating vegetable dust. This is a poor way of putting things as compared with the medical expression of the same fact. "The malady," said a medical paper, "is due to the inhalation of micaceous spicules of triturated vegetation."

The movement against women wearing trains and long petticoats in the streets is growing in importance in Berlin. All the different hygienic societies are calling meetings to consider ways and means of inducing women to wear only short skirts in the streets.

The principal health officer of Cape Colony states that Port Elizabeth is in imminent danger of an outbreak of plague similar to that at Cape Town. Several cases of bubonic plague have been notified at Port Elizabeth.

Two British soldiers at Mafeking are suffering from plague. They arrived with 20 others from Cape Town on April 19th. Plague has also appeared at Greenpoint Camp, and a soldier has died of the disease at Port Elizabeth. Up to May 18th the plague deaths in South Africa numbered 292, including 52 Europeans.

An alarming increase of the bubonic plague is occurring at Hong Kong. There are 40 fresh cases daily. The authorities are taking the most drastic sanitary measures to check the progress of the pest.

A new hospital is in course of erection at Newport, South Wales, which will cost about £35,000.

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