

public function, all the other peeresses rise to do her homage, even the grand old dowager duchesses, who hold the social destiny of England in the palms of their wrinkled old hands. "So," said Dr. Macmurchy, "these women, who have been in the profession for years, some of whom hold high and responsible positions, greet and recognize you as equals."

Miss Palmer was most enthusiastically received when she rose to respond to "The Press." She referred to the influence of books as a factor in the march of civilisation, more especially to the general utility of official magazines in the development of the professions, even trades and crafts having such journals, and she drew a picture of the office of a progressive physician—the walls lined with medical books, floor, tables, and chairs littered with medical journals—comparing with it the room of the average nurse, showing that without more literature the nursing profession must soon reach its limit of development.

Mrs. Jean Blewett, the Canadian poetess, also responded for "The Press." She read an ode composed specially for the occasion:

"THE WHITE-CAPPED NURSE.

"She is the flower of womanhood,
This white-capped nurse, who takes her post
Beside the sick, and lends her strength
Unto the ones that need it most.
No wav'ring of her courage high,
No mist of tears her true eyes dim,
'Tis hers to meet the foot-pad, Death,
And by her skill to conquer him.
"Methinks she is God's messenger,
With healing and with hope in store,—
The dew of health for pallid cheek,
The strength to make life glad once more.
Great is thy task, and thy reward
Lies not in fame or brodered purse,
But in the Great Physician's hand.
So do thy noblest, white-capped nurse."

This very happy afternoon was then brought to a close by the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

I have a theory that no woman who is not a first-class *hausfrau* is ever quite a first-class hospital Matron. I may be wrong, but so much in nursing depends on creature comforts. I cannot, therefore, bid good-bye to the General Hospital, Toronto, without just one word on the delicious breakfasts I enjoyed there. Do any of my English readers know a cereal, by name cream of wheat? If they do not, let them obtain a tin at once, and have it served at table piping hot, made like porridge, adding a liberal supply of fresh cream and sifted sugar—it is a food for the gods! Canadian cream, milk, eggs, bread and fruit would also pass muster on Olympus.

E. G. F.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



A munificent gift of £25,000, with the stipulation that it is to be retained as capital, has been notified to King Edward's Hospital Fund for London by Mr. Edgar Speyer, of Speyer Brothers, Lothbury, E.C.

A bazaar in aid of the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, will be held about the time of the Coronation under the immediate patronage of Her Majesty the Queen, the Prince and Princess of Wales, Princess Louise Duchess of Fife and the Duke of Fife, and Prince and Princess Charles of Denmark. The Queen will be present at the opening of the bazaar unless unavoidably prevented. Various sites have been offered or suggested, but it is probable that the bazaar will be held in the garden attached to the hospital itself.

The accounts for the Hospital Saturday Fund 1901 are closed. The total receipts were £21,452, as against £20,187 in 1900. The amount received during the last seven days was £4,694, as against £3,709 in the same period of 1900. Awards will be made to one hundred and sixty-seven institutions at a special meeting of the Board of Delegates to be held on the 25th inst.

We learn that an endeavour will be made by the existing Hospitals for Consumption in London to gain recognition of their work in the scheme to be framed for the bestowal of the magnificent sum which has been placed at the King's disposal. What they will urge is that these existing hospitals are well equipped to take their part in the crusade against consumption, and that they might be so grouped with the new sanatorium as to avoid waste of effort and anything like competition.

The West London Hospital, Hammersmith Road, W., is in urgent need of £1,500 additional annual income, in order to open and maintain the remaining unoccupied ward with 26 beds. Owing to the ever-increasing population, the present accommodation for in-patients has been even more severely taxed than heretofore, and extra beds, have, therefore, been more frequently requisitioned.

The widely advertised Cancer Wards at the Middlesex Hospital, have brought much grist to the mill, but the *Central News* states that the investigation of the cause and treatment of cancer is being actively carried on in other institutions—notably at the Cancer Hospital, Fulham Road. Cases of this terrible disease are also skilfully treated in every general hospital in the country and it is to be hoped that in the near future the cause of cancer may be revealed.

The first general meeting under the new constitution of the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic has been held, and an entirely new Board composed of the following gentlemen, were appointed: Mr. Ernest De la Rue, Mr. Melvill Green, Mr. Frederick

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