

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The Queen has consented to become a Patron of the City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, Victoria Park.

The Prince and Princess of Wales, accompanied by the Countess of Airlie and the Hon. Derek Keppel, paid a visit on Saturday to the Great Northern Central Hospital, of which his Royal Highness is President.

The annual meeting of the General Council of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London was held at York House on the 7th inst., the Prince of Wales, as President, occupied the chair. The Report for 1901 was received and adopted. The Prince said he had been considering how the permanent income of the Fund could be increased by £40,000 or £50,000 a year, and made the announcement that he had received provisional promises of support which from investments would increase the income of the Fund by £20,000 a year.

The magnificent donation of £121,000 from an anonymous donor for the treatment of consumption was announced at the Court of Governors of the Mount Vernon Hospital, and it was stated that sixty acres of land had been purchased at Northwood, near Pinner, for a convalescent home, to contain 100 beds. Fifty thousand pounds, it is hoped, will remain as endowment. H.R.H. Princess Christian will lay the foundation-stone on May 13th.

Mr. William Rathbone of Liverpool, whose name will always be connected with the inauguration of District Nursing, and also with Poor Law Nursing Reform, died last week at Greenbank, near Liverpool. His family were originally of Quaker origin and were some of the earliest opponents of the slave trade.

At the recent annual meeting of the Governors of the Birmingham and Midland Hospital for Skin and Urinary Diseases the Committee asked for increased support. Their increase of expenditure was largely due to the expensive electrical apparatus for the treatment of skin diseases. The satisfactory results attained by the new light treatment brought an increasing number of patients from the Midlands, and the funds were quite unable to meet the needs of these patients. Unless additional funds were forthcoming, the medical staff would have to refuse to treat a proportion of the patients whose need was pitiable.

Mr. Dangerfield, of Bilston, Staffordshire, has offered, and the county authorities have accepted, the use for five years, rent free, of a residence and thirty acres of land for a county consumption hospital on the open-air principle.

At a recent meeting of the Parliamentary Budget Committee at Berlin, the government representative explained that the statistics sent by certain German

physicians to the Berlin Committee for Cancer Research included over 12,000 cases.

The result of investigations positively proved that cancer was not hereditary, and though infection could never be traced to plants, yet it was very often traceable to animals, especially cats and dogs, more seldom to horses and cattle.

The studies and experiments of Professor Ehrlich of Frankfort on the Main held out reasonable hope, said the Government representative, that a certain cure for cancer might ultimately be discovered.

The Bishop of London, as trustee of the Marriott bequest, has sent a cheque for £1,700 to the North-Eastern Hospital for Children, Hackney-road, in payment of the grant made towards the building fund of this institution by the late Bishop (Dr. Creighton) from funds placed at his disposal under the will of the late William Marriott.

The Salford Board of Guardians, at a recent meeting, formally approved of the erection of a nurses' home at the Union Infirmary in accordance with the plans approved of by the Local Government Board at a cost of £11,882.

In connection with a scheme for providing a nurses' home at the North Staffordshire Infirmary, at a cost of £10,000, a contribution of £105 has been received from the King, who laid the foundation-stone of the infirmary in 1866.

The new Nottinghamshire sanatorium for consumption, which has just been opened, stands on a pine-clad site in Sherwood Forest, once the happy hunting-ground of Robin Hood and his merrie men. The land formed part of the Welbeck estate, near the thriving borough of Mansfield, and was generously given for the purpose by the Duke of Portland. Accommodation is provided for twenty patients, and the estimated expenses per patient are 30s. a week, or a total outlay per annum of £1,500. In the city of Nottingham alone there were 481 deaths from tuberculosis in 1900.

The Prudential Assurance Company.

The Prudential Assurance Company, which has just issued its Fifty-third Annual Report, has perhaps accomplished more remarkable results in the promotion of thrift amongst the working classes than any other body has yet achieved. It has taken the great principles of insurance—that is to say, of wise provision for the ever uncertain future—right into the homes of the poor in every part of the country. An army of agents call week by week and collect premiums by pence here and pence there. But the enormous aggregate of these pennies swelled up last year to produce the colossal income of nine and a half millions of pounds. More than three and a-half millions were paid out in claims, and at the end of December there were still over fourteen million people insured in this one office, while, to meet their future claims, the company has more than forty-three millions of pounds in invested funds.

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