

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR



The report of the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women is cheering. New appointments have been given to qualified medical women since the issue of the last report at the Central London Sick Asylum, Hendon, the North Riding Infirmary, Middlesbrough, and the York Dispensary. More important perhaps is the carrying out of the decision of the Royal Free Hospital Committee to appoint women to two resident posts in that hospital. Miss Garrett Anderson, M.D., was elected house surgeon, and Miss Woodcock, M.D., house physician. We do not hear of any dire results from this new departure, neither have the other medical officers threatened to resign unless the ladies were put off, as was the case recently at the Macclesfield Infirmary. Possibly the London staff are too sure of their own skill to dread comparison with that of feminine rivals, and are sufficiently cultivated to acknowledge competence in others.

The question of affording clinical accommodation to lady students, recently came before a meeting of the House Committee of the Western Infirmary, Glasgow. It had been remitted to Messrs. J. H. Dickson, J. Boyd, Professor Glaister, and the secretary by the sub-committee on New Dispensary, and was favourably reported on. The secretary was instructed to record in the minutes that the House Committee cordially sympathise with the desire expressed that provision should be made for female medical students obtaining their clinical instruction at the Western Infirmary. This, however, is impossible in the present building, owing to the pressure of male students in the wards, and could only be effected by an addition to the hospital. During the past year there had been an average of about 260 patients daily waiting for indoor treatment, showing the pressing need for extension of the accommodation. Plans have been prepared for a new wing at an estimated cost of £75,000, which would give 230 additional beds; but the managers have no funds to face this capital outlay. Realising these facts, however, and appreciating the urgency of the case, they feel it is their duty to make an earnest appeal for funds to supply this new wing, which will enable them to at once provide accommodation for the patients waiting for admission, and supply facilities for the clinical instruction of female students. We wish the appeal a most generous response.

The Mayor of Southampton has received a letter from Sir Donald Currie offering to subscribe £2,000 to the new nurses' home which is to be erected in connection with the Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital as a memorial of the late Queen Victoria. Sir Donald has also intimated that the Union Castle Mail Steamship Company is prepared to subscribe £500 to the same object, upon the understanding that the whole amount required, £5,000 in all, shall have been secured and the work of construction commenced before the Coronation. Sir Donald adds that he has permission to state that Queen Alexandra has been

pleased to intimate the great interest she takes in the effort to build a suitable and comfortable home for the nurses in connection with the hospital at Southampton.

Lord Mount Stephen has intimated his intention of setting apart securities representing about £30,000, so as to secure a free donation to the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary of £1,000 a year. Lord Mount Stephen previously cleared off the debt on the institution amounting to £25,000.

Our Foreign Letter.

SYDNEY NURSES' WELCOME TO MISS MCGAHEY.



On Feb. 25th the "Nurses Re-Union" of the Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, had the pleasure of welcoming back from Europe the Matron, Miss

McGahey. Miss McGahey was instrumental in inaugurating the Re-Union some two years ago, since which time meetings of Prince Alfred nurses have been held regularly, in the Nurses' Home, for mutual pleasure and help. Papers have been read by graduates and subjects of interest discussed, besides bringing old and new nurses together and helping to cement the bonds of union by their love and veneration for their mutual Alma Mater. It was, therefore, very fitting and proper that the Re-Union should be the first to welcome Miss McGahey, and the large number of past and present nurses who responded to the President's invitation, was an earnest of the respect and affection which the nurses generally entertain for their Matron, and the pleasure all felt in having her once more in office.

The resident nurses had drawn up an attractive programme of vocal and instrumental music, which they rendered at intervals, while others handed round refreshments, and entertained visitors. Foremost amongst the latter was the first Matron of Prince Alfred Hospital, Mrs Murray, who for many years previous to her marriage, swayed her gracious and kindly rule over the institution.

Professor Anderson-Stuart, the President of the Re-Union, in a few kindly words welcomed Miss McGahey back from her travels, hinting at the benefit the nurses would reap from the accumulated information, and hints in hospital administration which the Matron had collected during her tour. In the name of all a hearty vote of welcome was tendered to Miss McGahey, who responded with thanks and a kindly message which she had brought from the nursing representatives of England and America. To this the hearts of the nurses warmed, and many felt that another bond of union had been formed between the Old World and the New; slight it may be, but a foundation for future help and interest as time and opportunity offers.

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