

## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR



Mr. Leopold de Rothschild presided over the annual meeting of the West London Hospital, held last week, when the forty-fifth annual report, which drew attention to the needs of the hospital and recorded the extent of the work of the institution during 1901 was read.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption, said that the work of the hospital was excellent. Owing to the expense of each patient having increased, to the price of provisions having gone higher, and to the necessity for modern appliances, the institution required all the support that could be given it. In his early days it was the fashion for anyone going to a hospital to imagine that he or she was going to a prison. The arrangements were primitive then; medical comforts did not exist. During the last fifty years, however, hospitals had improved so much that he could confidently say without risk of contradiction that anyone receiving treatment in one of the leading hospitals was far more comfortable, had far better medical and surgical advice, and was far better looked after than the richest man in the most luxurious home.

The wants of the West London Hospital were manifold. The sum of £63,000 was wanted to complete buildings, to erect nurses' homes, and to pay off a debt. He was not sure that the debt ought to be paid off. It was the best thing a charity could have, for the public generosity was attracted by a debt. The trustees of the late Mr. Siegfried Rudolf Zunz had awarded the hospital £10,000 for the establishment of an "Annie Zunz Ward." He knew quite well that the trustees would never have made the award had they not been satisfied with the management of the West London Hospital. There were several beds in the new ward which required furnishing. He hoped friends would help in this direction, for it only cost £10 to furnish a bed. The more friends a hospital had the better it was known, and the more was done for it. The report was unanimously adopted, and the Chairman declared the beautiful new "Annie Zunz" ward open.

The nursing at the West London Hospital is very well done, we speak from experience, also the system turns out first class practical nurses—and that is what the public needs.

At the Mansion House, the Lord Mayor presided over a meeting of the Metropolitan Hospital Sunday Fund, when the appointment of Sir Edmund Hay Currie as secretary was confirmed. Mr. J. S. Gilliard, a director of the Bank of England, was elected hon. secretary. The question of making special efforts for the next Hospital Sunday Collection was discussed, and was finally referred to the General Purposes Committee. Several speakers urged that in view of the fact that this was Coronation Year, and also that the end of the South African War was imminent, some extraordinary effort ought to be made for the

Fund. The Lord Mayor agreed, and said it was intended to break the record this year.

A beautiful porch of iron and glass has just been attached to the main entrance of the Sussex County Hospital at Brighton. A brass plate records that it was "presented to the Sussex County Hospital, by Alderman J. L. Brigden; 1901." The opening ceremony took place prior to the ordinary meeting of the Committee, and these gentlemen came early in order to show their appreciation of Alderman Brigden's kindness. The porch forms not only an ornament to the front of the hospital, but will be of great advantage to patients and visitors, as it provides a convenient shelter from the delightful but sometimes boisterous sea breezes.

## Professional Review.

### ADENOIDS.\*

We have read this monograph with the greatest pleasure, partly on account of the excellence of the work, and partly because it is the only one, up to the present time, which is written in English. As the author remarks: "a disease which is so universal, which has such an enormous literature of its own, and which is of so much interest to all branches of our profession, ought to boast at least one book in the English language."

The first chapter is entirely historical, and describes how Meyer discovered the disease thirty-two years ago. That Adenoids was then no new affection is obvious from portraits, notably that of Francis II., king of France, who presented all the typical symptoms and ultimately died of meningitis or cerebral abscess dependent upon suppuration in the left tympanum.

The ætiology is next discussed, the causes being divided into predisposing and exciting, the most important being "catarrhal inflammation, and those of the exanthemata in which the upper air passages suffer most." Mr. Yearsley also shows that the disease occurs fairly equally in both sexes, usually in children, in all races of man, and has a tendency to affect several members of the same family.

Chapter III. deals with the Anatomy and Pathology, and the normal and abnormal conditions of the pharyngeal tonsil are fully described, and illustrated by excellent macroscopic and microscopic photographs.

The symptoms and complications are pictured with such force and accuracy, and at the same time without the slightest exaggeration, that the terrible results which are now only too commonly seen, ought in the future to be as rare as it lies within the power of medical practitioners to make them.

For the purposes of diagnosis the author is strongly in favour of using the posterior rhinoscope, as by this means the unpleasant sensation caused by a digital examination is avoided.

With regard to palliative treatment, about which there has been much discussion lately, we entirely agree with the writer who says, after describing the various respiratory exercises usually adopted for this purpose:—"These exercises are most valuable *after*

\* By Macleod Yearsley, F.R.C.S. Medical Times, Ltd., 5s.

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