

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The overcrowding of the medical profession in nowise diminishes. Figures given in the new issue of the "Medical Directory" (Churchill) show that there was a net increase to the ranks last year of 503, so that the number of medical men and women now endeavouring to obtain a livelihood is 37,291. Of these 6,309 are in London, 16,422 in the provinces, 3,680 in Scotland, 2,641 in Ireland,

and 1,186 in Wales.

All sorts of surmises are in the air as to what will be erected on the site of Christ's Hospital. St. Bartholomew's Hospital was compelled to pay £250,000 for a quarter of the area, leaving about three and a-half acres for disposal. One thing is certain, that before erecting a new nurses' home and other buildings it would be well for the Treasurer and Almoners of Bart's to be quite sure that one of the railways does not intend to place a "fine terminus" on the ground. This would ruin "Bart's" for hospital purposes.

The North-Eastern Hospital for Children, Hackney Road, has received a donation towards the building fund of £750 from the executors of the late F. T. Freeman, who left a large sum for distribution among charities at their discretion.

A new wing in connection with the Kingsbridge Cottage Hospital was opened on Thursday, the 1st inst.

Mrs. Birks, the mother of the vicar of Kingsbridge, recently purchased the freehold of the property, and the committee accepted her kind offer to increase the accommodation by building an additional wing. As there is a large garden attached to the hospital, there is ample room for further extension if necessary.

The great popularity of this pretty hospital is greatly the result of the devoted labours of the Matron, Miss Please, and we are glad to learn that she is to receive more help by the appointment of a second probationer. No position is more arduous than that of the Matron of a Cottage Hospital, because she is actually housekeeper, nurse, and a dozen other officials rolled into one.

A county ball in aid of the funds of the Sussex County Hospital will be held in the Royal Pavilion, Brighton, on Wednesday, January 14th. The institution is in debt to the amount of £10,000. The Duke of Cambridge and the Duke of Richmond and Gordon head the first list of patrons.

Mr. J. S. G. Pemberton, M.P., has offered to the Sunderland Infirmary a site on the Low Barnes Estate for a Children's Hospital, and asks that the building should be commemorative of his father, who died last year, and who was for many years a president and trustee of the Infirmary. The committee have thankfully accepted the offer, and propose to build a hospital as soon as the necessary funds have been obtained. It is estimated that the hospital will cost about £10,000.

The Glasgow Lunacy Board are opening two sanatoria at Gartloch and Woodilee for the accommodation and isolation of consumptive patients among the insane. The buildings will accommodate 162 patients, and are erected on the most modern lines of medical treatment. Each dormitory contains a spacious veranda to enable patients to be treated entirely in the open.

A despatch to the *Herald* from Mazatlan, Mexico, says that bubonic plague is raging there. A large number of people have been attacked, half of the victims being women.

Temporary Government hospitals have been opened and vigorous efforts made to stamp out the disease. Scores of houses occupied by the victims have been burned and others disinfected. Hundreds of persons are fleeing from the city, and 5,000 have already gone.

The news is causing a panic throughout Mexico. Armed guards are placed round the towns to prevent refugees from entering. A crusade has been started against rats, which are believed to be responsible for spreading the disease.

Home Hospital Management.

On the 9th inst. Fitzroy House Pay Hospital, rebuilt and re-equipped, was opened by the Duke of Northumberland, and £10,000 is required to conduct the institution. This pay hospital, which was started with £20,000 from the public, was ostensibly opened to give first-rate nursing, &c., to the middle classes with moderate incomes at cost price. Does it fulfil that object? We think not, to judge by the charges, which are quite as high, and in many instances far beyond the means of moderate incomes, as those charged in the West End by many proprietary and money-making Nursing Homes.

We learn that the patient pays from four to ten guineas a week for a room, which includes board, day and night nursing by the staff nurses—four rooms on day duty to one nurse, and more at night—and everything except stimulants and surgical dressings and drugs, which are charged at cost price. If desired, a patient can have a special nurse at a cost of three guineas a week.

This means that if a major operation is to be "nursed" at all, room and special nurse come to £13 13s. a week, without drugs, dressings, stimulants, personal washing, and other items, no doubt bringing the weekly account up to at least £15, and this in a Pay Hospital founded on charity and partly maintained by subscriptions.

Sir Henry Burdett is the moving spirit in this "charitable business," and our advice to the Committee and staff is to make a clear statement to the public of how the first £20,000 has been spent, and also to at once reduce the charges for admission to within the means of the middle classes, for whom ostensibly the public have contributed thousands of pounds. We have no faith in this medley of charity and business, and Fitzroy House should either be self-supporting, like many other home hospitals with the same charges, or reduce the cost of management so as to really carry out the objects for which public money has been subscribed.

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