

The Hospital World.

MERCER'S HOSPITAL, DUBLIN.

Mercer's Hospital, Dublin, which is situated in the centre of a very poor district, where it is doing excellent work, has an interesting history. In the Middle Ages the Lazar House of St. Stephen stood upon the same site upon which some centuries later Mercer's Hospital was built. This was in 1344, the time when Lepers' town—afterwards known as Leopardstown—was a sort of isolation place for those who were afflicted with this most terrible scourge. A stone house, mentioned in a letter to Dean Swift, was the residence of George Mercer, M.D., a Fellow and Vice-Provost of Trinity College, which house his daughter and sole heiress, Mary Mercer, inherited. In 1734 Mary Mercer made a gift of this house, to be converted into a hospital for the treatment of "such poor persons as laboured under diseases of dangerous and hazardous cure, such as leprosy, lunacy, or falling sickness." The hospital was started without endowment, and the first contribution to its funds came from the Lord Mayor and the Corporation of Dublin. In those days yearly musical performances were given in aid of the hospital in one or other of the parish churches in Dublin. At these concerts the Lord Lieutenant and the Lords Justices would attend in their State robes, while noblemen and gentlemen officiated as stewards. When Handel came to Dublin in 1741 he performed his great oratorio, "The Messiah," for the first time publicly, in the old Fishamble Street Theatre, in aid of the hospital.

More than a century later, says a contemporary, history repeated itself, when in 1859 there was a Handel Commemoration Concert given under the patronage of the Earl of Carlisle, then the Lord Lieutenant, at which Jenny Lind sang, the proceeds of which concert were handed to the Governors of Mercer's Hospital.

The hospital maintains 71 beds and the nursing staff consists of a Matron (Miss Jessie Powell), an Assistant Matron, four Sisters and 15 probationers, whom it trains for the City of Dublin Institute.

At the present time the hospital is supported mainly by voluntary contributions, and, with the increasing cost of maintenance and the large number of hospitals now appealing to the public for support, the difficulty of raising the necessary funds also increases. A *fête* is shortly to be held on behalf of the hospital, and its promoters are hopeful, from the support they have already received, that it will be attended not only by visitors from all parts of Ireland, but also from across the Channel. We hope the result may be to wipe out the present deficit at the bank, and to provide funds for much-needed improvements.

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



its sanitary relations, and meat and food inspection.

The programme has been issued of the thirty-sixth course of lectures and demonstrations for sanitary officers at the Sanitary Institute, Parkes Museum, Regent Street. The course, which extends from September 14th to November 26th, includes lectures on elementary physics and chemistry, public health statutes, the practical duties of a sanitary inspector, municipal hygiene, building construction in

A new convalescent home to accommodate twenty children has recently been opened at East Clandon, Surrey, in connection with the Alexandra Hospital, Bloomsbury, in memory of the late Mrs. Arthur Wood

The Royal Ear Hospital, Soho, has received donations of £300 from the executors of the estate of the late Mr. Richard Bishop and £200 from the trustees of Smith's Charity towards the new building fund of the hospital now in course of erection.

Lord Salisbury, says the *Daily Mail*, like all great men, has his fads, one of these being his strong objection to being prescribed for by a doctor. He is very learned in chemistry, and always likes to write his own prescriptions, which he takes to one of the best known chemists in the West End to be made up, and it is often necessary to use great persuasion to induce him to see a doctor at all.

Manchester Royal Infirmary has received £13,000 from the Queen Victoria Commemoration Fund of Manchester, which is a gift from the citizens.

A cheque for a thousand guineas has been forwarded to the Cardiff Infirmary to endow a bed in the women's ward, to be called the Rhondda Valley Bed. The money has been collected in equal shares by Mrs. Williams, of Miskin Manor, Mr. Jenkins, of the Ocean Colliery, and Mr. Watts-Morgan.

The Kingsbridge and District Cottage Hospital, which was opened in 1898, presents a very satisfactory annual report. On New Year's Day a new wing, built at the expense of Mrs. Birks, was opened. The wing is a one-storeyed extension southward, and contains a new men's ward for three beds, a new women's ward for three beds, a probationer's room, bath-room, and offices; the old convalescent room has been converted into an operation room, and thus the whole main work of the hospital is now on the ground floor. Upstairs there is a convalescent ward and an extra ward with one bed for emergency cases. This has already proved a very great convenience. The new men's ward has windows opening on a veranda, which gets the morning sun, and is extremely useful for patients who have need of much fresh air. A sale of work organised by Miss Edith Please, the Matron, produced the sum of £21 3s. 8d., and enabled the Committee to show a clean balance-sheet at the end of their financial year.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)