

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



Management.

In accordance with requisition a special court of the Corporation of King's College Hospital will be held at King's College on Monday afternoon for the purpose of obtaining the sanction of the members of the Corporation to the removal of the hospital from its present site to a site in South London. The proposed removal is put forward at the initiation of both the Council and the Committee of

Mr. E. White stated at a meeting of the Metropolitan Asylums Board that at the present time provisions alone cost the Board something like £3,000 a week.

Plans have been approved for the reconstruction of the South-Eastern Hospital buildings at the estimated cost of £123,000. The scheme provides that the 288 beds in the temporary buildings shall be replaced by 385 in new permanent buildings, bringing the total accommodation for patients up to 488 beds, and it includes the extension and remodelling of the administrative block, and the provision of additional accommodation for nurses, female servants, and the male staff.

The City of London Lying-in Hospital, at the corner of the City Road, is suffering from a serious subsidence owing to the excavations of the Great Northern and City Railway. On one occasion alarming noises were heard in the dead of night, and the Matron declared that her bed was once shaken by the sinking of the front of the building. A wall abutting on the street has been found to be eight inches out of the perpendicular. After considerable discussion the company have agreed to pay the hospital authorities the sum of £3,000 in settlement of their claims.

The Marquis of Zetland, President of the Mount Vernon Hospital for Consumption, Hampstead, will open the new east wing of the building on October 27th. The extension, which will provide additional accommodation for forty-five patients, has been specially designed for carrying out the hygienic treatment of consumption.

The Society for the Abolition of Capital Punishment will hold its annual meeting in the Holborn Restaurant on the afternoon of October 16th, when "special attention will be drawn to the effect of the late war on increased criminality."

The burden of hospital upkeep must be a terrible strain on hospital secretaries nowadays. The *Practitioner* protests against the endeavour of the authorities who administer the Hospital Sunday Fund to cut down the expenses of some of the London hospitals by insisting on a reduction in the amount spent on drugs. A committee of laymen, says our contemporary, cannot know anything about the use of drugs, and are, therefore, in this case interfering

in matters beyond their province. By seeking to restrict hospital officers in the use of remedies they run the risk of either causing the hospitals to use inferior drugs on account of their cheapness, or of preventing the physicians from making use of what they consider needful for the treatment of disease. In either case the effect of the interference will be pernicious. It is said that one hospital is recommending its officers to limit their prescriptions of such a useful remedy as extract of malt to a definite small quantity in each case, not because larger doses would not be more beneficial to the patients, but solely because the drug bill must be kept down.

At a meeting of the Council of the Drapers' Chamber of Trade a resolution was passed as follows:—"That this Chamber desires strongly to express its disapproval of what is termed 'King Edward's Hospital Fund Shopping Day,' and considers it an attempt to introduce an undesirable innovation which, if agreed to in this instance, might be repeated by other charitable institutions in the future."

Much indignation has been aroused in Bournemouth. It appears that recently a pauper receiving out-relief asked for an extra shilling a week, making 5s. in all. He said that bread had risen in price, and he had to pay for shaving and cleaning his boots, so that he could not get a bit of meat or cheese. Fresh air, liberty, and exercise had made his appetite better than it had been for eleven years. Signing himself "your suffering servant," he added, "If I am compelled to return to the house I am afraid there will be mischief in the house as soon as I enter it." The Guardians granted the request.

The Medical Officer of Beaconsfield (Bucks) has reported to the Urban District Council that the large quantity of rain and the scarcity of fruit are responsible for the small number of gastric diseases among young children this year.

The new medical buildings of Toronto University, which are among the finest in Canada, were formally opened last week. The dedicatory address was made by Professor Charles Sherrington, of the University College, Liverpool.

At the dedicatory ceremony of a technical school built at Weatherly, Pennsylvania, by Mrs. Charles M. Schwab, Mr. Schwab announced that he had determined to use his entire fortune for educational purposes, and particularly for the extension of technical education. Mr. Schwab recently erected and equipped at a cost of considerably over a million dollars a college of technology at Pittsburg, and is in a position to spend between eight and ten million dollars on education.

A conference of representatives of public bodies interested in the sanitation of West Africa recently forwarded to Mr. Chamberlain a resolution urging the appointment of a fully qualified medical officer of health and an adequate sanitary staff in each of the principal West African towns. Here is work for the new Secretary of State for the Colonies.

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