

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



PROPOSED SANATORIA FOR POST OFFICE EMPLOYEES.—A scheme for the erection of a sanatorium by and for post-office workers has been worked out. The proposition is that one halfpenny a week shall be deducted from the salaries of all who agree to the scheme. One halfpenny a week means £106 a year from every 1,000 subscribers, or, roughly, the equivalent to two beds, and as eleven and a-half weeks is the average duration of the open-air treatment of consumption, and the incidence of illness about 6 per 1,000, it is calculated that a halfpenny a week will provide bed accommodation for every likely case. Funds, however, would have to be forthcoming for erection, and for this provision the postal employees desire to be affiliated to the National Association for the Provision of Sanatoria for Workers, which is an offshoot of the Hospital Saturday Fund. The movement has already the support of 40,000 telegraphists, sorters, and postmen, and Mr. Garland, the secretary of the Postal Telegraph Clerks' Association, says that if the scheme be favourably received by Lord Stanley, a total of at least 50,000 employees will agree to the weekly halfpenny stoppage.

THE CITY OF WESTMINSTER AND "KING'S."—The City of Westminster objects to the removal of King's College Hospital, and claims that it is entitled to £600 a year paid to the hospital from the Pest House Charity, and also to a share of the increased rent which will accrue from the augmented value of so much of the site on which the hospital stands as was parochial property. Attention is also drawn to the fact that, according to the scheme under which the Pest House Charity is administered, twenty-four beds had to be set apart for the benefit of in-patients of various parishes in Westminster. Out-patients bearing orders from the trustees must also be treated, and in-patients received indiscriminately, whether suffering from contagious or infectious disorders—small-pox excepted—or not. The percentage of patients from Westminster treated at the hospital during the last three months was as follows:—In-patients, 8.33 per cent.; out-patients, 5.9 per cent.; and casualties, 20.62 per cent.

A LUCKY HOSPITAL.—An anonymous donation of £3,000 has been received at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, for the endowment of three cots.

A NEW INFIRMARY AT ALNWICK.—The Duke of Northumberland has promised £1,000 towards building the proposed new infirmary at Alnwick.

MISS NIGHTINGALE AND ROTHERHAM HOSPITAL.—A ceremonial full of import and interest took place at the Rotherham Hospital and Dispensary last week, when the Feoffees of Rotherham (Nightingale) Ward, which is a part of a scheme of additions and alterations now in progress, was put into use. Although the institution is justifiably regarded as a model of its kind, the growth of the town and district had necessitated developments, the cost of which, when com-

plete, will exceed £2,000. The incorporation of the word "Nightingale" is due to the circumstance that Miss Florence Nightingale originally gave an impetus to the building fund of the hospital by a handsome donation, and that the new ward replaces one accommodating eight beds, and formerly known as the Nightingale Ward. On a plate over the entrance door is to be inscribed the following:—"The Feoffees (Nightingale) Ward was opened on the 21st day of December, 1903, by Henry Crank, Esq., the greave of the Feoffees of the Common Lands of Rotherham, the ward having been erected and enlarged by them at a cost of £1,150. The Feoffees also gave a donation of £750 towards the cost of the Children's Ward in 1897. Feoffees: Henry Crank (greave), Robert Marsh, Joseph Wells, Richard Corker, Charles J. Stoddart, John Mason, John Cox, Frederick Mason, Wilfrid L. B. Hirst, George Gummer, Charles H. Moss, P. Bancroft Coward (law clerk), E. Hutchinson (surveyor), J. Howitt (secretary)."

GIFT TO PAISLEY INFIRMARY.—The deficit on the building fund of Paisley Royal Alexandra Infirmary has been very materially reduced through a generous promise given in May last by Messrs. J. and P. Coats (Limited). They intimated to the directors of the institution that if, before the close of the year, the public subscribed £3,000 to the building fund, they would add a like sum. Quite recently Messrs. Coats were informed that about £3,570 had been subscribed by the public, and, on Saturday last, the hon. treasurer of the Infirmary, Mr. James H. Young, received a cheque for £3,000. After allowing for interest due by the Infirmary, and deducting the balance of the £6,570, there remains, roughly, £10,000 of building debt to liquidate.

IMPROVEMENTS AT DUNDEE INFIRMARY.—The Chairman of the Dundee Infirmary Directors has announced that the work of renewing the annexes and ward kitchens in one section of the central block of the institution is almost completed. Operations were begun in April last, and as considerable structural alterations were necessary, the work has consequently been protracted. The new work consists mainly of ward kitchens, bath-rooms, lavatories, and examination rooms. In their construction wood has been avoided as far as possible. The floors are red tiled, the walls are lined to the height of 7 ft. by white tiles, and the rest of the walls and ceilings are of Portland cement. All the angles, even at the junction of the floors and walls, have been rounded so as to ensure perfect cleanliness, and with the same object in view the baths, instead of being supported on legs, are placed on beds of concrete. The sinks are of solid earthenware, so constructed as to present as few corners where dust might lurk; and all the piping is of copper, with the joints placed where they can easily be got at. The lavatories have each a special ventilating lobby, and are separated from the main corridors by a passage. The examination rooms are fitted up with the necessary appliances for chemical analysis in connection with the diagnosis of disease. All the partitions have been constructed of expanded iron and cement. The whole work has cost about £1,500. Though only the central block has been dealt with just now, it is understood that the directors intend treating the whole building in the same way as occasion arises.

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