

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



A MOST INVALUABLE CHARITY.—A festival dinner to celebrate the centenary of the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital (Moorfields Eye Hospital), City Road, will be held at the Hotel Cecil on April 22nd.

HELP FOR SICK CLERGY.—The annual meeting of the Hostel of St. Luke, which is situated at 16, Nottingham Place, and serves as a hospital for the treatment of needy clergymen, was held recently at the Church House, Westminster. The Bishop of St. Albans presided. The financial statement showed receipts for the past year of £3,030 against £3,111 for 1902, and total expenditure £2,039 against £2,297 in the previous year. The Committee had repaid to the bankers £502, balance of a loan, and had increased the investments by £500 stock. Towards the building fund £470 had been received, as against £407 in 1902. More than 141 patients had received treatment, as against 121 in the preceding year, the increase being mainly confined to the in-patient department. The greatest satisfaction was expressed by all the speakers at the meeting that the management were able to present so encouraging a report. Sir Lewis Dibdin, in moving a resolution, said there was nothing the Church of England was so deficient in as in the provision it made for the clergy, and it was not to be supposed that the work was adequate to the need. Newer and larger premises were imperative, and everything that could be saved was being sunk into a fund to procure a new site for an enlarged home. Cordial votes of thanks were offered to the Chairman, and also to the medical and nursing staff.

THE LORD MAYOR AND CHARITY.—The Lord Mayor has consented to preside at the Annual Court of Governors of the Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, City Road, to be held in the Board Room of the hospital on Wednesday, March 16th, at three o'clock.

AT THE NORTH-EASTERN HOSPITAL.—The North-Eastern Hospital for Children, Hackney Road, has received £500 from the editor of *Little Folks*, as a further instalment towards the endowment of the *Little Folks* Ward, contributed by the young readers of the magazine.

PROGRESS AT KIDDERMINSTER INFIRMARY.—A very satisfactory report was presented at the annual meeting of subscribers to the Kidderminster Infirmary, when the Committee reported that during 1903 a new aseptic operating theatre, a new nurses' sitting-room, and four additional bedrooms had been built and completed. These were the Victoria Memorial additions, and a sufficient sum had been subscribed to cover the entire cost of the new buildings and to have a small sum in hand. A new ward, the William Adam Ward, had also been built and equipped by Mrs. Adam in memory of her late husband. The institution closed the year free of debt.

We hear that the new nurses' sitting-room is

delightful. It is a large and handsome room, and an appeal by the Matron, Miss A. Barling, to some of the ladies resident in the neighbourhood, in relation to furnishing, resulted in a most generous response. Now that the furnishing is completed, the appearance of the room is quite charming. The walls are an Indian red with a deep white frieze, the carpet is blue-grey, with a touch of red, the surrounding boards are painted white, and the door and the woodwork of the window are white also. An oval mirror framed in hammered brass is inset with grey-blue enamels, and the pictures are platinotype copies of the paintings of Watts, Corot, and Burne-Jones. A fine Chesterfield settee offers inviting rest, and there are many cosy armchairs, some covered with grey-blue tapestry and others with red Liberty linen.

SERIOUS FINANCIAL STRAITS.—Many hospitals are suffering from serious financial straits, amongst them St. Mark's Hospital, City Road, and the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford. In London, where competition is so keen amongst the hospitals, they must beg very loud to attract the limited number of subscribers, but our county hospitals should receive adequate support from the rich in their own vicinity.

CHILD SLAVES OF ENGLAND.—The subject of the hard lot of poor children living in a condition little removed from slavery in many of our great towns is one that is awakening widespread interest; and the article on the subject, as it affects Manchester, by Mr. Robert H. Sherard in the February issue of the *London Magazine* is of the most startling and sensational character. No work of fiction could be more thrilling than this plain recital of facts which should stir the indignation of every reader.

A CONFERENCE IN COPENHAGEN.—The Conference of the International Central Bureau for the Prevention of Consumption will be opened in Copenhagen on May 27th.

A Presentation.

Sister Williams, who has been on the staff of the Samaritan Free Hospital, Marylebone Road, N.W., for thirty years, and is retiring on a well-earned pension, has been the recipient of many gifts from members of the medical and nursing staffs and other well-wishers, for she is a universal favourite.

Last Saturday the Matron, Miss C. L. Butler, the Sisters, nurses, and domestic staff assembled in the board-room, and then invited the presence of Sister Williams and made her a presentation of house-linen—a welcome gift to a hospital Sister setting up house-keeping, for is not a well-stocked and arranged linen cupboard the delight and pride of every Sister's heart?

The gift of the medical staff was a purse of money; nor is this all, for Sister Williams has also received numerous other gifts, from the secretary, and from ladies connected with the hospital.

In these restless days it is good to record thirty years of unbroken work in the service of one institution. No wonder the Matron writes: "I shall miss her very much. She is quite my right hand." We hope that Sister Williams will enjoy many years of well-earned rest.

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