

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to confer the title of "Royal" on the Sanitary Institute, and to signify his pleasure that the institute be known as the Royal Sanitary Institute.

The Governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital are not discouraged by the fact that they have only received £84,000 in response to the appeal

which was made in July for funds to rebuild the institution. Sir Trevor Lawrence, in a letter to the *Express*, states that the Governors regard this as a considerable sum to be raised during a year of exceptional trade depression. The opportunity is taken to answer the critics who hold that Bart's, instead of being rebuilt on its present site, should be moved and the valuable land sold. "They have overlooked the fact," writes Sir Trevor, "that the committee appointed by the late Lord Mayor to consider the question resolved, by fifteen to one, that it was essential in the interests of the public that the hospital should be rebuilt on the site which it had occupied for close upon 800 years."

Princess Henry of Battenberg has consented to be present at a meeting of the Association for Promoting the Training and Supply of Midwives, which will be held at the Westminster Palace Hotel on Friday, November 4th, at 2.45. The Archbishop of Canterbury will take the chair, and among the speakers will be Lord Brassey, the Chief Rabbi, and Mrs. Humphry Ward.

Mr. Thomas Russell, late of Eaton Square, S.W., has left by will £10,000 to the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, as a charge upon his residence, Normanwood, Surrey, or in certain events he left the said residence to the Great Ormond Street Hospital, to be used as a convalescent home and for no other purpose.

The North-Eastern Hospital for Children, Hackney Road, has received a donation of £250 from Mr. Maurice Ruffer in response to the appeal for funds to obviate the necessity for closing half of the wards at the end of December.

The report of the Asylums Committee of the London County Council shows an increase in the number of lunatics, for the year ending March 31st, 1904, of 996—the largest increase which the Committee has ever had to report. The total amounts to 23,948, considerably more than half, 13,325, being females. These figures agree with the general return for the kingdom. Their most noteworthy feature is that the Strand Union produces the largest quota of pauper lunatics, 13.7 per 1,000 of the population, as against 2.1 per 1,000 for Hampstead. But the Strand Union also contains some of the densest and poorest spots in the metropolis. The medical journals have been discussing again and again the causes of this extension of lunacy without arriving at any definite conclusion. The trend of opinion

seems to be that the growth of lunacy is proceeding, with about equal steps, with the growth of degeneracy, and that it should be investigated as part of the same problem. We are, as Herbert Spencer said, keeping alive an enfeebled race—enfeebled in mind as well as body.

The Earl of Beaconsfield Memorial Hospital at High Wycombe has benefited by over £800, the proceeds of the two days' bazaar opened by the Countess Carrington and Mrs. W. H. Grenfell.

The new children's ward of the Merthyr Hospital, built in commemoration of the Coronation, and, by permission of the King, to be called "The King Edward VII. Ward," was informally opened last week by Sir William Thomas Lewis, who at the same time handed to the Chairman of the Executive Board (Mr. John Plews) a cheque for £1,000 which he had promised for the construction of the ward. Mr. Plews acknowledged the donation, and said that but for the generosity of Sir William the hospital would never have been established.

Miss Dillwyn, who considers that after all her hard work for the Swansea Hospital she has been cavalierly treated, has definitely decided not to reconsider her decision to retire from the Swansea Hospital Committee of Management. She refuses to receive a deputation of the committee, and adds, "I am very glad to be relieved of any further work in the management of the hospital, as I consider very bad."

The Duke of Buccleuch presided last week in Dumfries at a meeting organised by Mr. Johnstone-Douglas, Comlongon Castle (convener of the county), to endeavour to raise funds for the establishment of a sanatorium for the treatment of consumption. The Duke spoke of the great need for such a place, and referred to instances which had come under his own knowledge of people who, from financial inability to take advantage of the hygienic opportunities of today, were lost. It was also stated that Dumfriesshire stood at the head of all the counties of Scotland in the number of deaths from phthisis. The amount required is £8,000. Mr. William Younger, M.P., wrote expressing sympathy with the movement, and promising a subscription of £500. A representative committee was appointed to set the movement properly on foot.

Statistics show that a greater number of people live to be centenarians in warm climates than in the higher latitudes. The German Empire, with 55,000,000 inhabitants, has 778 centenarians; France, with 40,000,000, has 213; England has only 146, Scotland 46, Sweden 10, Norway 23, Belgium 5, Denmark 2, Spain 401, and Switzerland none. Serbia, with a population of 2,250,000, has 575 people over 100 years old.

The exhibit of the Garden City Association in the Social Economics Department of the British Section of the St. Louis Exhibition has been awarded a grand prize by the superior jury. The exhibit has created great interest among visitors to the exhibition.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)