

## Reflections.

FROM A BOARD-ROOM MIRROR.



A most magnificent historical bazaar is in preparation for the benefit of the Westminster Hospital, to be held in the enclosure in Dean's Yard on the 23rd, 24th, and 25th of May. The bazaar is under the patronage of the Queen, all the Royal Princesses and *élite* of the nobility. The Matron and nurses are to have charge of the flower stall, their nursing costumes, simple, sweet and cleanly, being

eminently twentieth century.

Lord Burnham, presiding at the annual Court of Governors of the Charing Cross Hospital, announced that his sister, Miss Matilda Levy, desired to place £3,000 in the hands of the Executive Committee for the endowment of three beds in the Levy Ward, and that his sister, Lady Campbell Clarke, also desired to contribute £1,000 to endow a bed in the same ward. The Levy Ward would thus be completed. The Council recorded the endowment of three beds, two in the hospital and one in the convalescent home, the first bed endowed in the home since it was opened in 1896. Of the two beds in the hospital, one was endowed by Mrs. Arnold Gabriel in memory of her husband, and the second by Mrs. Mainwaring-Jones in memory of her husband, Lieutenant-Colonel Mainwaring-Jones, of the Honourable Artillery Company. The bed in the convalescent home was endowed by the executors of the late Mr. Arthur Oeran Croke, who bequeathed a sum of money for distribution among hospitals or convalescent homes. Lord Burnham stated that the hospital stood in immediate need of £23,000.

The West Ham Guardians recently appointed a committee to inquire into the consumption of alcoholic liquors in the workhouse and infirmary. One member declared that the doctors were the masters in the matter, but that more alcohol was consumed at their institutions than at hospitals. The following table gives the amount spent on liquors during the past year:—

| Workhouse.    |           | Infirmary. |           |
|---------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| Beer ...      | £75 0 0   | Beer ...   | £15 14 0  |
| Port wine ... | 7 17 0    | Wine ...   | 90 0 0    |
| Brandy ...    | 216 0 0   | Brandy ... | 623 0 0   |
| Whisky ...    | 2 4 11    | Whisky ... | 1 2 0     |
|               | £301 1 11 |            | £729 16 0 |

Total spent on alcoholic liquor £1,030 17s. 11d.

A detailed statement has been presented to the Governors of St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, which discloses a state of affairs calculated to give cause for some alarm as to the financial position of the institution. The normal annual expenditure of the hospital is put down at £30,000, and the income from all sources, except legacies, is about £15,000. Unfortunately the legacies have fallen off by about half, and now only amount to £7,000. Practically the only income the hospital can rely on is £15,000, and where the other £15,000 is to come from is a matter for serious consideration.

The late Mr. F. D. Mocatta, the great philanthropist, has left large sums of money to charities, and he leaves the ultimate residue of his estate to be divided, as to one moiety to the Jewish Board of Guardians, absolutely, and the remaining moiety to the Charity Organisation Society, absolutely.

Mr. Sydney Holland attended a special meeting of delegates from the Friendly and Trade Societies of Grays and district, who met to consider a letter and report from the House Committee of the Tilbury Hospital, concerning the question of a resident medical officer. Patients had complained of having been kept waiting for several hours for treatment after admission.

The Hon. Sydney Holland, as one of the promoters, of the hospital, said the most exaggerated statements were often made against hospitals with which he was concerned, and people were always more willing to believe the worst that could be said than the best. He paid a high compliment to the Matron, Miss Watson, and said he knew that in one case the Matron was two hours before she could secure the attendance of a doctor, but since that time the medical staff had been connected by the telephone. If men preferred to go to the London or Gravesend hospitals it was obviously not to prevent delay in treatment, as the distance was so much greater. They would be running great danger in having a resident doctor with the present small number of cases. A good man would not come, and they would be at the mercy of a "rotter." They could not pay him less than £100 a-year, and his "knife and fork" would cost a guinea a-week—for it was a fact that though it only cost 10s. to keep a nurse, a doctor's "grub" cost a guinea. Nor would it be fair to local practitioners to start a free out-patients' department. If the working men of the district were unanimous in the wish to alter the management of the hospital they would succeed; but in his emphatic opinion there was not enough work for a resident doctor to do at present.

A Mr. Beard said he had heard of a case which was kept from ten o'clock in the morning until four o'clock in the afternoon; and if that was the case it was high time they had more doctors. To which Mr. Holland replied:—I will bet my reputation for what it is worth, that it is an absolute lie that any man went to Tilbury Hospital at ten and did not get attended to until four o'clock, and I will pay £5 to the hospital on the day that I am proved wrong. You have no idea how these stories get exaggerated. If that happens at Tilbury Hospital the Committee are to blame, and I suggest that the Matron keep a register of the time cases are admitted and the time of the arrival of the doctor. The proceedings closed with hearty votes of thanks to the Hon. Sydney Holland for his attendance. So, presumably, his opinions were acceptable to the meeting.

A short time ago the house at the corner of Manchester Road and St. Mary's Place, Bury, formerly occupied by Dr. Barr, was handed over to the Bury branch of the Queen's Nurses' Institute by Mr. Henry Whitehead, of Haslem Hey, ex-High Sheriff of Lancashire, for a home for the nurses, and the home was recently formally opened by the Mayor, Alderman J. K. Butcher.

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