

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



In connection with the appeal for £500,000 for the purpose of rebuilding St. Bartholomew's Hospital, the committee have just issued a very interesting little booklet by Mr. J. Ivo Ball, giving the history of the hospital. "Barts" is the oldest hospital in the kingdom, and, as most people know, was founded by Rahere, who is supposed to have been a minstrel at the Court of Henry I., whose tomb is one of the objects of interest in the beautiful priory church of St. Bartholomew at Smithfield. We understand that the appeal for funds is to be extended to the provinces, and certainly, considering the tremendous number of country people who directly and indirectly must have benefited by the existence of the hospital, the provinces ought to respond gladly. An institution which can claim to have treated 300,000 in-patients and 7,000,000 out-patients in fifty years ought not to go begging for funds without a generous response.

We hear the new treasurer of Barts, Lord Ludlow, is showing much commendable energy. The Prince's Room, so long unused, situated on the first floor of the administrative block, close to the Great Hall, has been done up as his own special apartment, and there he sits for many hours, interviewing officials and doing business.

It is good to be young, full of energy and hope—half the victories of life are to the daring. How well we remember one wonderful day in which we spent a few highly charged hours waiting in this same Prince's Room, now nearly a quarter of a century ago. Below, in the Board Room, sat the Treasurer and Almoners, met to appoint a new Matron. We were the elect. Happiness sometimes stands still smiling and makes no attempt to elude the human grasp.

Mr. Sydney Holland is to be congratulated on the good report of the work and finances at the Poplar Hospital for Accidents as disclosed at the annual meeting.

The annual subscriptions have reached the high figure of £3,481, which was an increase of £400 over the previous year. Donations amounted to £5,185, as compared with £4,248 in 1903. Legacies have been received, among others, from Mr. A. Vernon Croke (£1,000), Mr. A. L. Cohen (£100), and Mr. E. Williams (£200). Various economies have been effected, and it is satisfactory to know that, although ten more beds had been opened, the expenses have only been slightly increased. "We have," said Mr. Holland, "a settled income of £3,500 a year, which leaves us only £5,500 to collect, and I cannot believe, whatever the future of this institution may be, that we shall not be able to collect that sum for it."

The *Guy's Hospital Gazette* has, in connection with the general effort, set on foot a scheme for popularising the appeal now being made for the hospital. It has announced the establishment,

under its own auspices, of "A Million Shilling Fund," opening the list with a subscription of 1,000 shillings. The *Gazette* has distributed collecting cards to the students and nurses of the institution, and to old "Guy's" men all over the country. In addition to this the work of collecting has been taken up vigorously by an auxiliary body called "The Guy's Hospital Ladies' Association," whose ordinary work is the visiting of patients and the making of garments for them.

New Preparations, Inventions, &c.

ARABELLA WATER.

This comparatively new mineral water is attracting a good deal of attention, and is becoming popular with the medical profession and the public in steadily increasing measure. It is drawn from and bottled at Springs at Kelenföld, in Hungary, and its official analysis is given as follows:—

| | Grammes per Litre. |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Magnesium Sulphate ... | 21.999 |
| Sodium " ... | 15.414 |
| Calcium " ... | 1.492 |
| Magnesium Chloride ... | .884 |
| Magnesium Carbonate ... | 1.266 |
| Potassium " ... | .281 |
| Iron Oxide and Silica ... | .016 |

41.352

The specific gravity of the water at 60 deg. F is 1.0386; and it is especially rich in those salts which have made other mineral waters famous in the past, or at present, for their efficacy in the treatment of Gout, Rheumatism, Liver complaints, and Chronic constipation. Indeed, a careful comparison with some of the best-known Waters proves that the Arabella, in various important characteristics, is, theoretically, even better adapted than many others for the treatment of the conditions above mentioned; and this has been corroborated by practical experience. We have tested it very carefully for the past four or five months, and have not only found Arabella Water uniformly successful in affording relief in these cases, but have found that patients take it with much less repugnance than they usually exhibit to other waters. This perhaps is easily explained by the fact that Arabella is almost entirely free from the nauseous taste which characterises so many other mineral waters. We find that the best method of administering it is to give an adult half a tumblerful with an equal quantity of hot water first thing in the morning. In six cases of sub-acute rheumatism, in each of which the urine was loaded with urates and the specific gravity between 1025 to 1030, three days after the use of Arabella was commenced, the urine was quite clear, and its specific gravity was from 1018 to 1020. We entertain no doubt that Arabella will in due time take its place amongst the most popular and useful waters of its class.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)