

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD-ROOM MIRROR.



His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has been pleased to appoint Hugh Mallison Rigby, Esq., F.R.C.S., to be one of the Surgeons in Ordinary to His Royal Highness.

Princess Alexander of Teck has consented to become President of the Ladies' Samaritan Society, National Hospital (Albany Memorial), Queen Square, Bloomsbury.

Princess Louise Augusta of Schleswig-Holstein opened on Saturday the new block of the East London Hospital for Children, which has been built specially for the accommodation of young patients suffering from whooping-cough. Her Highness was welcomed by the mayor, aldermen, and town clerk of the borough of Stepney, and the Reception Committee. A handsome bouquet was presented to her Highness by Miss Adelaide Row, who, during her term of office, as Matron, has been untiring in her efforts for the welfare of the hospital, the nursing department of which under her superintendence has attained to a high degree of efficiency. After her Highness had declared the ward open, she received purses in aid of the building fund.

Amongst the Bills introduced into the House of Commons this Session is one by Mr. Hayes Fisher, "to provide for the exemption of hospitals in London from local rates"; one by Dr. Hutchinson, "to amend the law relating to the qualification and tenure of office of medical officers of health and inspectors, and for other purposes; and one by Sir John Batty Tuke, "to authorise the London County Council to provide receiving houses for the reception of persons mentally afflicted or alleged to be of unsound mind, and to authorise the detention of such persons in such houses, and for other purposes connected therewith."

The new Head Master of Eton, the Hon. Edward Lyttelton, is said to be a reformer. Under his rule let us hope that a hospital will be provided for the school, a gymnasium for the use of the boys, and a swimming bath for the winter months. They are all badly needed.

Mr. William Melville Wilcox, Secretary of the Royal Hants County Hospital at Winchester, has been elected Secretary to the East London Hospital for Children and Dispensary for Women, Shadwell.

At a meeting of the Ladies' Association of the Hospital for Women, Soho Square, which was founded sixty years ago, was the only hospital in the world for the class of cases there received, striking evidence of the progress of modern surgery was afforded in the fact that, whereas not so many years ago the death-rate of certain operations was 80 to 90 per cent., it has now been reduced to 5 per cent. It is, however, most necessary, if the best work is to be done, that structurally a hospital should be as perfect as possible, and there is no doubt that the Hospital for Women needs rebuilding, and we

are glad that the Committee are taking this important work in hand. With a new building, no doubt, will come also the reorganisation of the nursing department, the smooth working of which would be much facilitated by suitably-arranged wards.

The new out-patients' wing of the Leicester Infirmary was opened last week by the Marchioness of Granby, the ceremony being held in the large waiting hall of the building. Alderman Wood, Chairman of the Board of Governors, presided, and in opening the proceedings said they were met to inaugurate an important event in the history of the infirmary. He recalled the recent erection of the new surgical wing, the alterations to the heating, kitchen, and nurses' department, and the other parts of the great scheme of reconstruction being carried out in the institution. All this having been done, he said, the Board of Governors had to consider the inadequacy of the old out-patients' department, with its defects of accommodation and ventilation. Without a doubt Leicester now had one of the finest out-patients' wings in the country. He had great pleasure in introducing Lady Granby, who had kindly come down from London to declare the wing open.

Lady Granby then expressed her great pleasure in declaring the building open.

The Marquis of Granby, in replying to a vote of thanks, said Lady Granby was delighted to have been present, because it enabled her to appreciate the extremely valuable work that was being done on behalf of the poorer classes of Leicester and Leicestershire. The borough of Leicester had grown greatly—he hoped there would be a growth in the county also—so that it was necessary to increase the accommodation of the institution to meet this development; and although he could not say that this wing marked the end of improvements in regard to infirmary matters in Leicester, yet it was one of the final seals on the great work of reconstruction.

At the annual meeting of the Birmingham and Midland Hospital for Women, it was stated that 479 patients had been admitted to the in-patient department, an increase of 35. There had been 470 operations, an increase of 37 as compared with last year. The number of cases involving abdominal section had been 258, that was 8 more than last year; of these 6 had died, giving a death-rate of 2.3 per cent. This compared with 4 per cent. on 250 operations in 1903. The Convalescent Home is complete, and was opened on February 4 of this year by Countess Beauchamp. The total sum received at the opening, including the collection taken at the doors, amounted to £278. The building of the hospital itself is well forward, and it is hoped that it will be opened during the summer. The financial position still causes great anxiety to the committee. Of the £41,000 required, £8,000 still remains to be raised, and the committee earnestly appeal for further donations, so that the hospital may be opened free of debt. Professor Taylor said that as the results of the last year had been so satisfactory, he should lay himself open to no accusation of making any excuse if he suggested that the persistent urging of the necessity of reducing the death-rate might possibly be carried too far in discouraging the surgeons from attempting to deal with cases of an exceptionally desperate character.

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