

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The treasurer of Guy's Hospital gratefully acknowledges a sum of £2,584 13s., contributed by the members of Lloyd's towards the present appeal of the hospital. The sum of £53,500 has now been subscribed towards the £100,000 required, and the Governors earnestly ask that the balance of £46,500 to complete this section of the appeal may be forthcoming before the close of the present year.

The new Women's Hospital in Showell Green Lane, Sparkhill, Birmingham, which has been built at a cost of £42,000, was last week formally opened by Mrs. J. S. Nettlefold, we are glad to say, free of debt. The ground floor of the administrative block contains the nurses' dining-room, patients' waiting-room, surgeons' room, and the various offices and kitchens. On the first floor there is the Matron's sitting-room, Matron's and Sisters' bedrooms, while the second floor is devoted to the servants' bedrooms, &c. In the nurses' block there is a recreation room and twenty-five bedrooms. The hospital block comprises four large wards containing ten beds each, four small wards with two beds each, four ward kitchens, dispensary, surgery, sewing-room, patients' clothes room, anaesthetic room, sterilising room, two operating theatres, and bath-rooms. After the door had been unlocked the Bishop of Birmingham gave a short address and offered prayers. Professor J. W. Taylor emphasised the satisfaction of the staff upon the completion of the new building. There were now more facilities for work, an increased sphere of usefulness, a better scientific equipment, and healthier accommodation for patients and nurses. They might reasonably look forward, in conjunction with the University, to some measure of teaching which should carry on the best traditions and methods of their hospital to future generations.

Pound Day seems to be an increasingly popular method of adding to the assets of charitable institutions, and when we learn that last year 5 tons 12 cwt. of goods of various descriptions were given to the Beckenham Cottage Hospital, to the value of £30, it is not surprising that this method of benefiting the hospital is to be put in practice again this year. Suitable gifts are groceries, provisions, and household stores of all kinds—coal, wood, &c.

Dr. Charles Leighton Hopkins, of the Kent County Asylum, has been appointed Medical Superintendent to the York City Asylum, which is now nearing completion at Naburn.

Mr. T. Martin, J.P., a member of the Weekly Board of the Lincoln County Hospital Governors, has made a handsome offer to that body. To supply a long-felt want—a suitable convalescent home for hospital patients—Mr. Martin has generously offered, as an absolute gift, Eastcliffe House, less the furniture and fixture not required for hospital purposes, with its beautiful gardens and grounds. The residence is situated on Lindum Terrace, commands a splendid view of the lower or southern portion of the city, and the Witham valley, and, standing as it does on a lofty

eminence, would be admirably adapted for the purposes of a convalescent home. Further, it is but a short distance from the hospital itself.

One ought not to look a gift horse in the mouth, but surely a convalescent home should be situated in the country and not in a town.

A new hospital for infectious diseases, with provision for twenty-four patients, is to be built at Redcar shortly for the districts of Redcar, Marshe, Saltburn, Kirkleatham, Wilton, and Upleatham.

We are glad to learn that the House Committee of the York County Hospital, at its last meeting, was able to report that the financial position of the hospital has been so much improved as the result of the special effort recently made that it is expected the Court of Trustees will be able to rescind their resolution closing part of the institution. It should be understood, however, that this improved financial position refers entirely to the reduction of the debt incurred by recent improvements, and in no way relieves the necessity for continued and increased support of the ordinary revenue.

The City of Bristol is one which has increased by rapid strides, and although the hospital provision at the Royal Infirmary and the General Hospital is excellent so far as it goes, it is plain that it must be increased to meet the growing needs of the population. The Chairman of the General Hospital, Mr. Proctor Baker states that the number of patients who are kept waiting "for six or eight weeks" before being admitted because of want of room is so great as to "render" extra accommodation an absolute necessity. New isolation wards are to be set up and furnished, and the total cost will be something like £6,000. The institution is also compelled to set up accommodation for nurses, which will involve a capital outlay of another £6,000, and £500 will be required for alterations to the old theatre. A total sum of no less than £12,500 is therefore about to be expended on stone and lime and furniture.

Many of the leading officers of health are carrying on a vigorous campaign against infectious hospitals, and their utility is a question which is engaging the attention of the Local Government Board, and it is expected that an inquiry will shortly be held by that department with the view of ascertaining whether these institutions are really fulfilling the purpose for which they were intended.

The late Mrs. Hawtrey, of Alfred Place West, South Kensington, has left a sum of money for the founding of a "Madeline Hawtrey Convalescent Home."

It is proposed to make considerable alterations at the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, including the addition of beds, the building of a new Nurses' Home, an operating theatre block, and out-patient accommodation. The Nurses' Home is to be proceeded with forthwith.

The Irish Local Government Board has, after a sworn inquiry into the condition of the Lurgan Workhouse Small-pox Hospital, severely censured the Master and two medical officers for its disgraceful condition, as utterly unfit for the reception of patients. The exposure of this scandal was due to the public spirit of the editor of the *Portadown News*, and we congratulate him upon the result.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)