

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The Duchess of Albany has promised to be present at the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic on Saturday afternoon, December 9th, when Sir Squire Bancroft will give his reading of Charles Dickens's "Christmas Carol" in aid of the funds of the institution.

On the occasion of the opening of the cloister at the church of St. Bartholomew-the-Great, Rahere's Priory Church, by the Bishop of London on Saturday, the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs will attend in state.

Special contributions amounting to £1,087 were received last week towards the £60,000 required to release St. Mary's Hospital from debt and to furnish the Clarence wing for the reception of patients.

The magnificent American Bazaar held last Thursday, Friday, and Saturday in the Stratford Town Hall, in aid of the Extension Fund of the West Ham and East London Hospital, was beautifully done, and, we hope, proved as remunerative as it deserved. The hospital is situated in the centre of a very poor neighbourhood, and is doing splendid work—a thousand in-patients have passed through the hospital during the year, and help is given to nearly 90,000 out-patients. £10,000 is required to secure property adjoining belonging to the High School, and to adapt it as extra wards.

Some 1,300 medical men availed themselves, at the invitation of Bovril, Limited, and inspected their model premises in Old Street last week. Lord Duncannon received the visitors, and in the factory the whole process of the manufacture of the famous extract and the other preparations made by the company was seen and explained. The process by which the granulated beef is milled and passed through sieves with a fineness of 15,000 meshes to the inch, and the laboratories, specially interested the medical men, who were also struck by the fact that the materials during various processes are not touched by hand. In the bottle-filling department 150,000 bottles are sometimes turned out in a day.

Mrs. Emma Ponceia, of Edgbaston, Birmingham, who died worth £79,000, left £10,000 each to Birmingham General Hospital and Queen's Hospital, Birmingham. This is a cheering Christmas Box for those who have to find the funds to carry on the ever-increasing cost of hospital management. The maintenance of both the institutions benefiting by the bequest is a source of constant anxiety to the responsible authorities.

Mr. William C. Gray has made a conditional offer of £3,000 towards an endowment fund for the Cameron Hospital, West Hartlepool, and the Hartle-

pool Hospital, Hartlepool. He states that as soon as a satisfactory financial arrangement is decided upon, it is his intention to augment by one-third all subscriptions which are received towards such endowment fund, the maximum about which he shall be called upon to contribute not to exceed £3,000.

It is interesting to note that Nursing Homes founded by Jews are springing up in our big cities to provide for the sick poor of the Hebrew population. Last year such an institution was opened in Manchester, and now Leeds has followed the good example, and through the generosity of Alderman J. Moser a large villa residence has been adapted for the purpose.

The French Permanent Committee of the Tuberculosis Congress, at the head of which are MM. Casimir-Perier and Léon Bourgeois, has written to President Roosevelt informing him that the next Congress will be held in the United States. The signatories express their satisfaction at this fresh opportunity of strengthening the good relations between France and the United States, which have so many times co-operated in furthering the interests of mankind.

Considering 150,000 deaths occur from tuberculosis in the United States in one year, and that enormous efforts are being made by every scientific means to decrease this terrible record, next year's meeting should prove most instructive. Sanatoria on simple lines are now combating the "white terror" in America with very good results.

Royal Commission on the Poor Law.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire:—

- (1) Into the working of the laws relating to the relief of poor persons in the United Kingdom;
- (2) Into the various means which have been adopted outside the Poor Laws for meeting distress arising from want of employment, particularly during periods of severe industrial depression;

And to consider and report whether any, and, if so, what, modification of the Poor Laws or changes in their administration or fresh legislation for dealing with distress are advisable.

The Commissioners will be: The Right Hon. Lord George Hamilton, M.P., Chairman; The Right Hon. The O'Connor Don, The Right Hon. Sir H. A. Robinson, K.C.B., Vice-President of the Local Government Board for Ireland; The Right Hon. Charles Booth, F.R.S.; Sir Samuel Provis, K.C.B., Permanent Secretary to the Local Government Board for England; Mr. F. H. Bentham, Dr. A. Downes, The Rev. T. Gage Gardiner, Mr. George Lansbury, Mr. C. S. Loch, Mr. J. Patten Macdougall, Vice-President of the Local Government Board for Scotland; Mr. T. Hancock Numm, The Rev. L. R. Phelps, Professor William Smart, The Rev. H. Russell Wakefield, Mrs. Bernard Bosanquet, Mrs. Sidney Webb, and Miss Octavia Hill.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)