

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The General Purposes Committee of the Metropolitan Asylums Board have received a report from the Metropolitan Branch of the Incorporated Society of Medical Officers of Health urging them to provide hospital accommodation for patients suffering from pulmonary phthisis. The memorial has been sent to the Local Government Board, with the intimation that having regard to the great prospective cost to the ratepayers the Managers of the Board would be glad to receive the judgment of the Local Government Board upon the matter.

The articles sent weekly to the laundry at the London Hospital number 50,000, not 5,000. After everything has been paid, and depreciation on machinery and buildings allowed for, the average cost of washing each article is one halfpenny.

In the isolation hospital for the Urban District of Walthamstow a pavilion has been erected on a novel plan. In the centre of the block is the nurse's duty room, and each half of the building is divided by plate glass partitions into six cubicles each with 2,000 cubic feet of air space. Isolation is thus complete while all the cubicles are under observation by the nurses. Further possible infection from tuberculosis, a disease which many children develop after a severe illness, is avoided.

A very satisfactory report was presented at the annual meeting of the work done during the past year at the Infirmary and Children's Hospital, Kidderminster. The lavatories in the four main wards have been reconstructed on the latest and most sanitary principle, and electric light has been installed to supersede gas. The expenditure of £290 thus incurred has already been nearly subscribed.

Miss Barling, the Matron, has, with the help of about thirty Vice-Presidents, started a Linen Guild, and it is hoped in this way to make it possible for many who cannot afford large sums to subscribe 1s., or one article of linen for hospital use annually. Lady Barbara Yeatman-Bigg, wife of the Bishop of Worcester, has consented to be the first President of the Guild.

A great effort is being made in Cambridge to provide Addenbrooke's Hospital with a seaside home for convalescents. For six years the work has been carried on in a hired house, with success so complete (as to all but funds) that the Committee is resolved to appeal to a larger public for help to erect a suitable building at Hunstanton. To make the work permanent and effectual, on a sound financial basis, £4,000 is required. Every large hospital needs a seaside home, at which the strength of the patients can be quickly built up.

Professional Review.

TALK TO THE NURSES OF THE LONDON HOSPITAL.

The latest pronouncement of a "hospital expert" is the "Talk to the Staff Nurses, Private Nurses, and Probationers of the London Hospital," by its Chairman, the Hon. Sydney Holland, which makes us pause to consider what is the province of the Matron of a hospital. If the Chairman looks after the "set" of the nurses' caps, their mode of hair-dressing, the tidiness of their bedrooms, the amount of water they use in their baths, and the keys of their wardrobes, and the Assistant-Matrons inspect and are responsible for the good order of the wards, what are the duties which Mr. Holland considers should be allotted to a Matron?

We think it is somewhat to be regretted that he elected to publish the "Talk" now under consideration. As he spoke at length on points of personal discipline, and other matters usually dealt with by the Matron of a hospital in strict privacy, in our view it would have been better if these remarks had only reached those for whom they were primarily intended. Thus:—

ABOUT THE BATHS.

"About the baths. Will you please be careful, nurses, not to leave the taps running in the baths, and go away and come back when you think your bath is full."

"YOU MUST BE CAREFUL ABOUT THOSE KEYS."

"Then," he says, "we come to that dreadful question about the keys. . . . In a place like this, unfortunately, we occasionally have some thieves. It is just the same at every large public school, and everywhere else where numbers are gathered together, there is too often some thief about the place. We have given you a different key to every wardrobe, and we have done the best we possibly could to avoid this horrible nuisance and to protect your property. But you must be careful about those keys. I have had a neat little placard put on each door: 'Where is my key?' But lately one nurse took that little placard off and put it in her drawer, and consequently forgot her key."

Surely if the criminal element in the London Hospital must be dealt with this should be done in camera.

THE CAP STRAIGHTENER.

But there are other things on Mr. Holland's mind. The way in which many of the nurses put on their caps is not to his liking. There are many of them, he says, who always wear their caps on the back of their heads. "It does not look very nice to see a cap put right at the back of the head, and we must all wear our uniform in the proper way," so outside the sitting-room he has had a large looking-glass placed. That is called "the cap straightener," and in it all nurses may see whether their caps are straight, or whether they are too far back.

THE NURSES' BEDROOMS.

Mr. Holland confesses he is always in a fright when he takes visitors round the nurses' bedrooms as these are sometimes shockingly untidy. He truly says if they are so untidy in their bedrooms they will be

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