

## Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



At the meeting in promotion of the aims of the British Red Cross Society, held at the Mansion House last week, the following message from the Prince of Wales was read:—"I wish success to the British Red Cross Society, and am impressed with the necessity of making preparation for war in times of peace. The society is one whose welfare the Queen has much at heart, and as its object is to convey a practical sympathy to our soldiers and sailors when engaged in war it should meet with the support of all classes of the community. Much has been done in the past; much generous aid has been forthcoming from the Colonies, and I hope that in time a branch of the British Red Cross Society will be found in every part of the Empire."

Lord Rothschild gave an account of the inauguration of the society. The National Society, from the time of its foundation in 1870 to the present time, has expended nearly half a million sterling in assisting the sick and wounded in war.

Lord Tweedmouth, in moving a resolution heartily approving of the objects of the society and wishing it every success under its new organisation, the fusion of two existing bodies, namely, the "British National Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded in War" and the Central British Red Cross Council, assured those present that the two great defensive Services of the country were thoroughly alive to the necessities of the sick and wounded in time of war, and added that the object of the Red Cross Society was to supplement those efforts and to render financial help for the purpose of alleviating the sufferings of the sick and wounded in war. The overlapping of hospital work in the field was not desirable, consequently it had been generally realised that there should be some central organisation, active in times of peace, which would interest the public in the provision of material for the care of the sick and wounded in war times. General Lord Methuen, in seconding the resolution, declared that the nation was considerably behind the Japanese Army in regard to sanitation, and he expressed a hope that the society would make a study of sanitation. The resolution was passed unanimously.

Sir Donald Currie, through whose munificent gift of over £100,000 the buildings are being erected, will lay the foundation stone of the School of Advanced Medical Studies, Nurses' Home, and Maternity Students' House in connection with University College Hospital, Gower Street, on Monday, June 11th.

Mr. Haldane has promised to open on June 25th the new buildings of the National Physical Laboratory at Teddington.

At the festival dinner in aid of Charing Cross Hospital, at which Mr. Whitelaw-Reid, the American Ambassador presided last week, subscriptions and donations (with the emergency fund) were announced to the amount of £12,257.

Lord Ludlow, the Treasurer of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, has received £125 towards the pathological block, being the proceeds of an entertainment held at the hospital on View Day.

The Duke of Fife, in presiding at the Court of Governors of the Hospital for Sick Children in Great Ormond Street, said it was not enough to say that more money had been given to these institutions within the last quarter of a century than ever before; the question was whether the increase was in proportion to the increase of population and commensurate with the present needs. He hoped the voluntary system of support, which was on its trial, would continue, but the future demanded a greater measure of help than in the past, else the system would be condemned. The greatest need of the Children's Hospital at present was an increased endowment fund.

Since the foundation of the City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, Victoria Park, in 1850 over 38,000 in-patients have been admitted to the wards and three-quarters of a million out-patients have been treated. It could scarcely advance a greater claim to support, yet it has been compelled to close beds for want of funds. If the twenty-four beds now closed could be reopened 200 more in-patients could be admitted annually. At the Annual Dinner, held recently at the Trocadero, subscriptions were announced to the amount of £2,480.

The Committee of the Brompton Hospital for Consumption reported to the Annual Court of Governors that over 200 of these patients had been transferred to the Sanatorium Convalescent Home on the Chobham Ridges, where they had received additional treatment for upwards of several months, and that more than one-third of the number discharged had left with total arrest of disease. They appeal most urgently for increased financial support.

One rarely hears of a more arrogant and unfeeling remark than that reported to have been made lately by a Midland Counties' Coroner to the mother of a child who had died of severe burns after being kept waiting for an hour and twenty minutes in a hospital out-patient department before receiving attention:—"If you are not satisfied with the attention you get from a charity you could go elsewhere." Some of the working class supporters are suspending their subscriptions to the charity in consequence.

Dr. W. Rae, of Northampton, who died last week, has left nearly the whole of his estate, amounting to nearly £20,000, to Northampton charities. The principal bequest is £5,000 to the Victoria Nursing Institute.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)