

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The King and Queen will visit Newcastle on July 11th, when his Majesty will open the new Royal Infirmary, built in memory of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.

The King's Sanatorium at Midhurst, Sussex, built with money placed at the King's disposal, by Sir Ernest Cassel, and which was opened by his Majesty on Wednesday last, has cost £150,000. In it sufferers in the early stages of phthisis will be placed under the best possible conditions for the healing of their damaged lungs. The site covers no less than 150 acres, and from the building splendid views over the South Downs are obtained. The broad corridor which connects the patients' block and the administrative building has a flat roof which can be used as a promenade. The chapel, the gift of Sir John Brickwood, of Portsmouth, is so designed that the worshippers can sit in the open air, and there is an open air pulpit for fair weather. The patients' rooms have floors of wax polished teak, and the walls, for the first time in England, are covered with a patent paper, used in most of the foreign sanatoria, which can be washed and disinfected.

The Medical Superintendent is Dr. Noel Bardswell, who was a pioneer of the open air treatment at the Sheffield Infirmary, and who believes in absolute rest as an important part of the treatment. The patients, of whom there are to be 100, will not even be encouraged to read. The fees charged will be as a rule two guineas per week, a few rooms will be set aside at eight guineas.

The opening ceremony on Wednesday took place in the dining hall. An address having been read by Sir William Broadbent the King declared the building open. The Medical Officers and the Matron, Miss Trew, had afterwards the honour of being presented to their Majesties.

A cheque for £100 has been sent by Mr. Henry Hurrell, of Peverill Park, Plymouth, for the building fund of the Queen Alexandra Sanatorium at Davos, of which Her Majesty the Queen is patron.

The *Daily Mirror* is organising a scheme for interesting children throughout the country in those of their number who are to be found in the wards of our hospitals. It is issuing at a cost of 1s., which is slightly below cost price, "The *Daily Mirror* Hospital Scrap Album," which is to be filled by children with pictures cut from the *Daily Mirror*. When the albums are full they must be returned to the office of the paper at 12, Whitefriars Street, E.C., when they will be distributed amongst the children's wards of the various hospitals. Prizes of 5s. each will be awarded to the senders of the fifty albums judged by the Editor to be most tastefully arranged.

Midwifery Matters.

The letter of Dr. Percy Rose, addressed to the *British Medical Journal*, has occasioned two other letters on midwives and midwifery in the last issue. Dr. H. T. Sells, M.O.H., Northfleet, and Inspector of Midwives, considers it unjust that the Central Midwives' Board calls all registered midwives certified, and allows them so to style themselves. He thinks this an injustice to the midwives who hold a certificate of proficiency in midwifery, as it places them on an equality with those untrained women who have been allowed to register as being in practice before the passing of the Midwives' Act, 1902, and suggests that it would be more just to style the latter "registered," and the former "certified and registered" midwives.

He does not think the medical members of the Board can realise the class of women they have been compelled to put upon the Roll, many of whom are so ignorant that it is quite impossible for them to carry out the regulations.

He also draws attention to another point, namely, that the Central Midwives' Board have held that they have no control over midwives as far as canvassing is concerned, thus there is the curious anomaly that medical men can be struck off the Register for "touting" while registered midwives can canvass with impunity.

These are all interesting points. As to the first we may say that no uncertified midwives in future will be admitted to the Roll, and the elimination of those admitted to it in virtue of their being in practice when the Act was passed is only a question of time. We think the Central Midwives' Board is well aware of the shortcomings of many of them, and the Chairman is always careful to point out that the Board had no option in admitting them to the Roll, but was compelled by the Act to do so. In regard to touting, the Medical Acts make provision against it, the Midwives' Act does not, and what the Board has to do is to administer the Act as passed.

Dr. Milson Rhodes raises the question of Union Hospitals as training schools in midwifery, and points out that in the last official list of training schools there is not a single union infirmary licensed in London and only seven in England. He asserts that the delay and trouble to which Boards of Guardians have been put before obtaining a licence is a disgrace to the Central Midwives' Board.

We are aware, as Dr. Rhodes points out, that there is considerable opposition on the part of one member of the Board to the recognition of poor law infirmaries as training schools. But even those members who desire to utilise the experience they can afford have found it necessary to proceed slowly in recognising these schools. Not only have the number of cases received and the efficiency of the teaching given to be taken into consideration, but the structural arrangements of the wards to which midwifery cases are admitted, and the arrangements for the nurses who attend them. The Guardians of Kensington Infirmary have led the way by providing a distinct self-contained block for the midwifery cases;

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