

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



By the will of Mr. Thomas Wood, of Eastbourne, formerly of the Langham Hotel, Portland Place, the sum of £5,000 is left to the Great Northern Central Hospital, in Holloway Road, for the general purposes of that institution.

A donation of £1,000 has been received from Lord Howard de Walden for the emergency fund of Charing Cross Hospital.

The Hospital for Epilepsy and Paralysis, Maida Vale, of which the new Matron is Miss Mary L. Pollett, benefits to the extent of £126 by the Hospital Sunday Fund distribution.

The Report of the Managers of the Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum is always interesting, and that for the year ending March 31st, 1906, is no exception to the rule. During the year two examinations of probationer nurses have been conducted by Mr. H. P. Dean, F.R.C.S. Nineteen candidates, all of whom successfully passed the examination, were examined and received certificates of training. During the year twenty-two nurses sat for examination in Sick Cookery in connection with the Cookery Classes held at the Asylum under the auspices of the Technical Education Board of the London County Council, out of which number thirteen passed and nine failed.

Amongst the improvements the operating room has been brought thoroughly up to date, and a small sterilising room, lined with non-absorbent tiles, has been arranged. The wards are now heated by radiators, the total number supplied being 320. Experience has proved that there is no difficulty in keeping up a temperature of 60 deg. in the wards when that outside is at freezing point. The alteration has proved a comfort to the patients as previously great difficulty was experienced during cold weather in keeping the wards up to a regular temperature.

At present the accommodation for the nurses is inadequate and the Managers, on the advice of their architect have decided, subject to the approval of the Local Government Board, to add two storeys to the reception block, whereby accommodation will be provided for thirty additional officers, as well as the necessary bath-room and lavatory accommodation.

It is pleasant to learn in these days of economic competition that the Managers have, with much benefit to the women concerned, increased the wages of the laundry-women from 2s. 6d. to 2s. 10d. per day, and those of the scrubbers from 2s. to 2s. 4d. per day.

Princess Henry of Battenberg has consented to open a garden fête and entertainment at Elm Grove,

Ventnor, I.W., early next month, in aid of an effort for providing a free bed for the Royal National Hospital for Consumption, Ventnor.

The Royal Isle of Wight County Hospital, Ryde has received the sum of £1,000 from Mrs. Pakenham Mahon, for the endowment of a bed in memory of her daughter.

Mr. William Rae, M.R.C.S., surgeon to the Royal Victoria Dispensary, at Northampton, who died in May last, has bequeathed £5,000 to the Northampton Town and County Institute for Trained Nurses in connection with the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute, the income to be applied for the service of trained nurses in the borough of Northampton, as defined or hereafter extended for parliamentary or municipal purposes. He also left to the Institute the residue of his estate, which will probably be in excess of £12,000. It is with pleasure that we record this recognition by a medical man of the value of good nursing.

Earl and Countess Cawdor inaugurated last week a new hospital which has been erected at Nairn by Mr. Alexander Mann. Lord Cawdor said that Mr. Mann had given £4,000 for building this new hospital and £1,000 for a site. He did this with the wish that his name would appear nowhere on the hospital; not even a plate was to be inscribed with his name inside the building. It was not always that a magnanimous generosity was so retiring as this, but they all felt that, though Mr. Mann, in his simple, quiet way, might not be inclined to allow his name to be used, it would not be forgotten, but would be enshrined in a far more permanent and enduring way in the hearts and gratitude of the people of that community.

The following subjects will be discussed at the International Congress on Assistance for the Insane, which is to open at Milan, on September 26th:—

1. The progress in assistance for the insane in different countries since 1902 to the present time. By Dr. Menzies, Cheddleton Asylum.

2. The organisation of sections of observation, supervision, and isolation in Asylums and colonies, and methods which have given the best results. By Dr. Bond, of Ewell Colony for Epileptics.

3. Assistance for convalescents.

4. Assistance for the feeble-minded, alcoholics, epileptics, and the morally insane. By Dr. Ireland, Chuttleworth and Fletcher Beach.

The Middelburg (Transvaal) Town Council has issued a warning to the public against taking the seeds of the castor oil tree instead of the prepared medicine. Although the medicine is made from the seeds of this tree, the seeds themselves are very poisonous. Castor oil trees have been extensively sown along the railway line between Middelburg and Pan, and already ten people, who have taken the seeds of these trees, have been admitted to hospital, two of the cases being serious.

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