

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The total amount subscribed up to the present time to the Countess of Minto's Fund in aid of the Indian Nursing Association is £16,339. Her Majesty the Queen, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, Lord Rothschild, the Maharajahs of Scindia and Bikaner, and the 11th and 9th Lancers are amongst the subscribers.

Some welcome donations have been received by the London Hospitals lately. The London has received £1,000 from Lord Iveagh towards its opsonic department, St. Mary's an anonymous donation of £1,000 towards the sum required to enable the Clarence Memorial Wing to be furnished and opened for patients, and Lady Wantage has sent £1,000 to the Charing Cross Hospital Emergency Fund.

Lady Wantage has been for many years interested in the care of the sick and an active promoter of Red Cross work. She was decorated with the Royal Red Cross in 1883, when Queen Victoria instituted the Order as a reward of zeal in providing for and nursing sick and wounded soldiers and sailors.

At the opening of Charing Cross Hospital Medical School on October 1st, Professor Ivan Petrovitch Pavloff, of St. Petersburg, will deliver the Sixth Huxley Lecture. The subject will be "Recent Advances in Science and their Bearing on Medicine and Surgery."

The Parks Committee of the London County Council have consented to receive at their next meeting, in October, a deputation from the Convalescent Homes Association, which desires to place before the Council the great advantage which would accrue to the poorer classes by the conversion of the mansions in the L.C.C. parks into convalescent homes.

These mansions, once the residences of the wealthy, are now used mainly as residences by the park employees and for other public purposes. The Convalescent Homes Association consider that they might be most beneficially used as Homes in which to provide the convalescents of the London hospitals with fresh air and medical and nursing care.

At an inquest at Wandsworth on a baby which died in a convulsion caused by acute gastro-enteritis following epidemic diarrhoea, Dr. Trevor said that epidemic diarrhoea would destroy life in two or three hours; it was a most rapid and frightful thing. It was not definitely known how it was set up, but ordinary house flies were supposed to carry it about by settling on food. Even boiled milk might be "turned" by these household pests.

Dr. Forbes Winslow, writing in the *Tribune* on the "Terror of Insanity," says: "I desire to state most

emphatically that, in my opinion, many persons at the present moment certified as being of unsound mind and confined in one or other of the institutions for the reception of the insane, are quite fit to be taken care of outside such an establishment. These are neither dangerous to themselves nor others, and ought to be free agents and treated like ordinary individuals. There are also a number of persons confined in asylums who, though unable to manage their property, are quite harmless and able to control their own movements as free agents, yet they are deprived of their liberty, whereas, if a guardian was appointed to do this, there would be no harm in granting them their freedom. Many incipient cases of insanity, if recognised in the early stages, might be effectually dealt with without further development. It is the ignoring of the most important early symptoms on the part of the relations, or by those who have been called in to advise, from sheer ignorance, which brings about the inevitable. Often a terrible disease might be prevented if the premonitions received their proper recognition. There is nothing more dreadful than to watch the progress of insanity making its ravages through various families unheeded and unchecked."

He adds that though there has been a great progressive increase of lunacy during the last sixty years, so has there also been a progressive improvement in the care and treatment of the insane. Glory and immortal honour must be given to those who exposed the frightful atrocities of days gone by, and who advocated and originated a humane treatment for the insane, and so assisted the physician in ministering to a "mind diseased."

At the first annual meeting of the Arthur Webster Memorial Hospital, Newport (Isle of Wight), founded by the Lord Chief Justice in memory of his son, Lord Alverstone, who presided, expressed his gratification that the first year's working had been so successful, and that the income had been generously subscribed and proved sufficient.

Mr. Joseph Storrs Fry, a well-known Bristol philanthropist, has subscribed £1,000 to start a scheme for raising £10,000 for extensions and improvements at the Bristol General Hospital. Sir Edward Wills has given £1,500 to endow a bed. The fund of £50,000 for extending and improving the Bristol Royal Infirmary is now nearly completed, Sir George White and Mr. Samuel White being most generous contributors.

Even the hospitals in Russia participate in the general unrest. A party of armed men forced an entrance into the female ward of the Zemstvo hospital at Ekaterinoslav recently and rescued a political prisoner.

The Mexican Government has offered three prizes, each of the value of £4,000, for (1) the discovery of the typhus fever germ; (2) the mode of its transmission to man; (3) a successful preventive or curative serum or other effectual remedy.

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