

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



Her Majesty the Queen sent to each child at the country branch of the Alexandra Hospital for Children with Hip Disease, East Clandon, Guildford, a box of sweets with instructions that they were to be given on her birthday. The children's pleasure can be imagined.

The Duchess of Albany has promised to visit Liverpool on January 10th, 1907, to open there the new Infirmary for Children.

Amy, Lady Tate, has promised a donation of £1,000 to the King's College Hospital Removal Fund if by December 31st, 1907, ninety nine others subscribe the same amount.

The Home Secretary stated, in reply to Sir William Collins in the House of Commons last week, that he had resolved to appoint a small committee to consider the provision of a better ambulance service for street accidents in London.

In connection with the Eighth International Conference of the Red Cross Society to be held in London in May, 1907, there will be an exposition of appliances and inventions for the relief of the sick and wounded in war. Three prizes will be awarded for the most useful inventions of the kind from the fund of £10,000 given by the Empress Maria Feodorovna for the purpose.

The building of the new Pathological Block at St. Bartholomew's is to begin as soon as possible. It will cost in all nearly £30,000.

At a meeting in Blackburn last week, Mr. Harry Schofield announced that a few local gentlemen interested in the question of infantile mortality had decided to open a restaurant under charge of a sympathetic woman, where for twelve months they would give two good meals per day to twelve poor nursing mothers, with a view of ascertaining the extent to which the rearing of children was dependent upon the proper feeding of the parent.

A terrible catastrophe involving members of the crew of a British steamer, and the death of three was reported on the arrival in the Tyne of the "Kirkstall" of West Hartlepool. When the vessel was at Pensacola a severe outbreak of fever occurred, and eight of the crew were removed to an infectious hospital on an island 6 miles from the mainland. A terrible hurricane occurred and the hospital was carried from its foundations into the open sea. It drifted six miles along the Florida coast when its

walls collapsed. It then turned upside down, the walls floated away, and the eight inmates were left clinging to the roof, which also subsequently broke up. Five of the men were rescued, but the other three perished.

The United Hospitals Conference.

The United Hospitals Conference of Great Britain and Ireland, held on Thursday in last week, in the Botanical Lecture Theatre of University College, W.C., was very well attended, and keen interest was shown in the proceedings throughout.

Sir William Church, who occupied the Chair, suggested that it would be convenient if the proposals as to the administration and management of hospitals and kindred institutions, drawn up by a joint committee of the British Medical Association and of non-medical representatives of Boards of Management of Hospitals were accepted as a report.

The first resolution submitted for consideration of the Conference pledged it, if carried, to general approval of the principles formulated by the Joint Committee. It was pointed out, however, that to adopt the resolution in that form would be to preclude exception being taken in future to any one of the 28 suggestions contained in the report, and ultimately an amended resolution was carried, stating that the Conference "welcomed the further consideration" of the proposals drawn up by the Joint Hospitals' Committee.

The last resolution was one which provided that "an appeal be made to hospitals to contribute towards the expenses of carrying on the work. Miss M. Breay, Hon. Secretary of the Matrons' Council, asked to be allowed to suggest that an appeal should be made to individuals interested in hospital administration rather than to the hospitals which were supported by charitable contributions. She thought there were objections to that plan, and they had been brought home to her as a trained nurse, because the Central Hospital Council for London took power to provide for its expenses by contributions from the constituent hospitals. She believed the Chairman of the Council was in the room and would be able to endorse her statement.

What was the position of trained nurses who were endeavouring to obtain the organisation of their profession, and Registration by the State, for the benefit of the public quite as much as for their own? Nurses were financing their own campaign, but they found that the most active opposition emanated from the Central Hospital Council for London, financed by the hospitals, which therefore, presumably bore the expenses it incurred in fighting the nurses. As some subscribers to hospitals were strong supporters of State registration of trained nurses, it was not likely they would desire to contribute towards a movement in opposition. It therefore appeared to her only just that societies and committees such as that at present proposed, should be supported by individuals not by contributions from the hospitals.

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