

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The Asylums' Committee of the London County Council are recommending the Council to accept the offer made by Dr. Henry Maudsley to contribute £30,000 towards the cost of the erection and equipment in London of a hospital of 100 beds for the treatment of cases of recent and acute mental disorder. The committee are hopeful that by the timely treatment of incipient cases the necessity for certification and restraint may in many cases be altogether avoided. The committee point out that a strong argument in favour of such a hospital is its value in the dissemination of knowledge of mental diseases and in the provision of systematic instruction in methods of treatment. At present the study of insanity is to a great extent an isolated branch of medical research, and the general practitioner knows little of what is considered to be the province of the alienist and neurologist.

The Finance Committee of the Metropolitan Asylums' Board has unanimously endorsed the opinion of the Ambulance Committee that the results of the employment of the few motor vehicles, particularly the omnibuses, for the short time they have been in use, are more than sufficient to justify the introduction of motor traction and its further gradual extension.

The Infants' Hospital, Vincent Square, Westminster, has received a donation of £500 from Mr. Carl Meyer for the endowment of a cot.

The Local Government Board have issued a circular to Councils of boroughs and urban and rural districts suggesting the universal enforcement of regulations for the humane slaughtering of animals.

The National League for Physical Education and Improvement is making an appeal to all managers of Sunday schools, clubs, and other organisations for the young to apply to the various education authorities for permission to utilise the playgrounds for the enjoyment of the working boys and girls after school hours during the summer months.

Replying to a deputation at the offices of the Local Government Board representing the Health Committees of Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds, and Sheffield, Mr. John Burns said that the Government intended to bring in a Bill dealing with the whole question of milk supply. If farmers were practical and municipalities reasonable he thought, under the Bill, the milk supply of the country would be better.

Though most of the patients of the Royal National Hospital for Consumption arrive at Ventnor

in advanced stages of the disease, such improvement has been effected in the mode of treatment that the death-rate has diminished from 22 to 13 per 1,000 in one year. How this comes about was explained by Dr. R. Robertson at the annual general meeting of Governors, which was held last week. At first there was great difficulty in introducing fresh-air treatment, and the mother of one of the patients who was in a room with an open window complained not only to the Governors but to Queen Victoria, and her own physician came to the hospital to inquire into the matter. But now, said Dr. Robertson, there is no closed window in the hospital. No less benefit is derived from giving the patients graduated work in the grounds. When this was first attempted they asked for payment, but now they are most anxious to be so employed, for they take it as a sign that they are considered to be improving, and it shows that they still have a grip on life.

The 135th annual report of the Leicester Infirmary points out that the past year has been an eventful one. The total cost up to date of building and equipping the new wing has been £18,000, while £2,000 is being expended on laundry improvements. A sum of £10,428 remains for the provision of the Nursing Home, to which sum is to be added £4,412 1s. 6d. from the recent bazaar, so that £14,840 is either paid or promised towards the New Home, the estimated cost of the building and furnishing of which is £20,000. With the new wing and the new Nurses' Home in full occupation, the annual expenditure of the Infirmary will, at a modest computation, be increased from £17,000 to £21,000, and there is, therefore, the most pressing need for an augmentation of the income to provide for this increased cost of maintenance. The Board make a special and urgent appeal for new and increased annual subscriptions and donations.

The new infectious diseases hospital recently erected at Falkirk is now open. The hospital has been designed on most approved lines, and consists of four separate buildings, the erection of which has cost £5,800. The grounds have been laid out with walks and flower plots, and at the east end of each of the two pavilions airing grounds have been provided for the use of patients. These are separated by rows of double fencing—another contrivance for the purpose of preventing the intercourse of patients afflicted with different kinds of diseases. Let us hope the patients will receive the best of nursing.

The Oxo Company, which make a point of keeping up the strain of the cattle on their ranches in the River Plate, have just shipped thirteen pedigree heifers and bulls of the finest Hereford Stock to the Argentine Republic. The makers of Oxo are the largest British cattle farmers in the world, and their preparations are made from the finest beef obtainable, so they may be given to invalids with confidence.

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