

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



Hospital Sunday is invariably on the first Sunday after Trinity, which this year falls on June 21st. Some 2,000 clergy and ministers have already signified their intention to have collections on this day, and it seems especially desirable this year that there should be no misunderstanding.

Annual meetings of hospitals are apt to become monotonous, and a pleasant variation upon the usual function is favoured by the West London Hospital, which issues invitations to its friends and supporters to an "At Home," enabling all to see for themselves the high state of efficiency at which the institution is maintained. The Duke of Abercorn, as chairman of the board of management, received the company last week, and the wards, brightly decorated, were greatly admired by the visitors. At the meeting, which took place in the out-patients' hall, the report was taken as read. In this mention was made of the valuable anonymous gift of a lift large enough to carry an ambulance and attendants. The salary for ward sisters has been raised, and the entrance fee for probationer nurses has been abolished. The in-patients last year numbered 2,363, and the out-patients 125,157, both showing considerable increases on the figures of 1906.

We are sorry to hear of the financial straits of the fine old Royal County Hospital at Winchester, which for several years past has had to face an annual deficit varying from £1,100 to £1,600, and on several occasions it has been necessary to dispose of invested funds. The number of beds in actual regular use is to be reduced to 92, with eight more reserved for emergency cases, and the out-patients' department is to be closed to all except special cases requiring treatment by X-rays, Finsen light, and the like. Even when these economies are effected, next year's balance sheet will, it is estimated, still show a deficit of between £400 and £500. The management committee have now been authorised to take payments from patients, the straitened circumstances of the institution having induced the Governors reluctantly to depart from a rule which has prevailed ever since the foundation of the hospital, nearly 170 years ago. Of late years the income has remained the same, but the number of patients has almost doubled.

A Conference on Capital Punishment, to be held in Caxton Hall on June 18th, is being arranged by the Romilly Society, with the co-operation of the Humanitarian League, the Howard Association, the Medico-Legal Society, the Society for the Abolition of Capital Punishment, and the Penal Reform League.

The Ruchill Hospital.

RESIDENTS' PROTEST.

The late Resident Medical Officers of the Ruchill Hospital, Glasgow, have presented a protest against their dismissal to the Lord Provost, and the Magistrates and Town Council of the City of Glasgow. After surveying the facts connected with that dismissal at some length they say: "We would respectfully request your consideration of them in justification of our claim to be reinstated, and our dismissal withdrawn, otherwise our professional reputation must suffer. . . . We appeal to the honour of all that fair justice be done. We would never have fought in the interests of our patients, and hospital efficiency, had our cause not been just."

We own that our sympathy is with these medical officers, and we consider that they have made out a good case for their reinstatement. It was abundantly proved at the Local Government Board Inquiry that their complaints were based upon facts capable of proof, and we think that they proved that their actions were prompted by a desire to further the interests of the sick under their care, even at the expense of being placed themselves in a disagreeable position. Moral courage is not so common a virtue that we can afford to pass it by unrecognised when it is found, and the Town Council will do well to reinstate the dismissed medical men, not only as an act of justice, but because they have proved themselves its loyal and conscientious servants.

The Chemists' Exhibition.

The Chemists' Exhibition, which opened at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Vincent Square, Westminster; S.W., on Monday last, and closes on the evening of Friday, 8th inst., and which is organised by *The British and Colonial Druggist*, is a bright and popular exhibition, and one which is much appreciated by chemists in the provinces, as owing to the railway rebates afforded (half the ordinary fare) many take the opportunity of bringing members of their families to town.

One of the most striking features of the exhibition is the dainty form in which drugs of all kinds are now offered to the public. The crude presentations of years gone by find no favour in these days. We must have our pills sugar-coated, nauseous drugs concealed in capsules and in other pleasant forms, or we will not take them. The consequence is that beauty in form and colouring are the characteristics of the drugs presented at the exhibition. The excellent music performed by Herr Meny's White and Bleu Viennese Bands help to make the exhibition a centre of gaiety and pleasure.

The exhibition is the fourteenth which has been held, so it is now a well-established annual fixture.

All exhibitions have a great educative value, and the Chemists' Exhibition has undoubtedly come to stay.

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