

where waiting patients can obtain refreshments at very moderate prices.

I must not forget to mention, in connection with the hospital, the well equipped operating theatre, the dainty instruments and dressings used in ophthalmic work are specially fascinating. Especially noteworthy is the "Moorfields" eye bandage, about 2½ inches in width, which comfortably covers the dressings on both eyes. Both ends are then split, and hemmed, and tapes, four in all, attached which are tied above and below the occiput.

As a special hospital the Royal Ophthalmic has a definite and useful position as a training centre. Nurses, as a rule, get little or no experience in eye work in their general training. Yet it is most delicate work, demanding the skill and gentleness which only come with training and practice, and, especially abroad, they are frequently called upon to undertake the nursing care of most serious cases.

Regular probationers are received for a year's training in ophthalmic work, those who have had general training being preferred. They are paid a salary of £12 the first year, and £20 if they stay for a second year, the salary rising subsequently according to the position the nurse is then selected to fill. Some paying Probationers are also admitted for a term of three months on payment of thirteen guineas. Night duty is not compulsory for paying probationers, but otherwise no difference is made between them and the regular probationers. The age for the former is 21 to 40, for the latter 21 to 30.

When off duty nurses may receive visitors in their sitting room, but not in any other part of the hospital or at any other time without special permission.

Each probationer has a separate bedroom, and in no hospital with which I am acquainted is there such an ample provision of cupboards and drawers. These are fixtures, and fortunate indeed are the nurses and probationers. Their lines have fallen in pleasant places in this respect.

The loss of sight, especially to the working classes, is such a tragedy that hospitals for diseases of the eye should specially appeal to the charitable. I would advise the tender hearted with money to spend in the alleviation of suffering to pay a visit to this well equipped and well managed hospital, to see for themselves how indispensable it is to those it treats so skilfully, and to give every penny they can spare towards keeping open the wards which may have to be closed unless the public make prompt and generous donations towards its support.

MARGARET BREAY.

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The report of the Royal Commission on the Care and Control of the Feeble-Minded, appointed in 1904, has been issued as a Blue-book. The Commissioners have instituted very elaborate inquiries, have examined 248 witnesses, and make, in all, more than 200 recommendations. It is a stupendous document, and requires much time and thought to grasp the very valuable information and statistics it contains.

A meeting of the Council of the Hospital Sunday Fund was held recently at the Mansion House. It was stated that the executors of the late Mr. George Herring would pay to the fund £35,000, the balance of income received for two years in respect of the existing investments. Adding this to the collections, the total of the fund to date was £72,386. The committee recommended a distribution of £70,000 to 164 hospitals, 60 dispensaries, and 29 nursing institutions.

The Duke and Duchess of Devonshire opened the fine new Nurses' Home adjoining the Chesterfield and North Derbyshire Infirmary last week. It has been erected at the cost of £16,000.

Mrs. Nixon, widow of Mr. John Nixon, founder of the Nixon Navigation Collieries and of the steam coal trade, has promised to subscribe 10,000 gs. to the Cardiff Infirmary for the endowment of a ward in memory of her husband. The ward will be known as the "John Nixon" Ward. The son of a Durham yeoman, Mr. Nixon, when quite a young man, was the first to see the possibilities of Welsh steam coal. He died a millionaire.

The Board of the Swansea General Hospital are of opinion, on account of the large number of patients always waiting for admission, that the time has arrived for increasing the number of beds, repairing and modernising some of the wards, providing more accommodation for the nursing staff (some of whom are now lodged outside) and servants, and improving the domestic arrangements. With this object in view a comprehensive scheme is being prepared, which will be carried out from time to time as funds permit.

Replying to a series of questions, the Home Secretary says that the total cost of the prisons of England and Wales, including State inebriate reformatories, for the year ended March 31st last, for salaries and maintenance, is £722,396 3s. 9d., of the reformatories and industrial schools £428,888, of the care of lunatics in England and Wales £3,551,955, and of the police in England and Wales (including the Metropolitan Police) £5,864,151. The total cost of poor relief, and all purposes wholly connected therewith, in England and Wales is put at £13,957,000.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)