

women serving on boards of management will have any appreciable effect, either in reducing expenditure (supposing it to be excessive) or in promoting efficiency? Without making any extravagant claims on their behalf, we are surely justified in replying that we have a complex system of duties entailing an immense amount of work, work requiring a large amount of leisure, and also work that covers pretty well all the range of ordinary life, more especially in its domestic and social aspects, and that for such work it is apparent that what is wanted is to get the best capacities available of whatever kind they may be. Thus if women are appointed to Boards of Hospitals, let it be clear that it is not because they are women, but because they are those who can do the kind of work required best. And it would certainly appear that in this work a mixed board or committee would be most efficient, seeing that the work is so varied in its character that specialists of different kinds are required. But there is one important matter to be observed—a pitfall to be avoided. Do not allow any work to be undertaken as regards management that is not responsible. That is to say, do not have committees of ladies to assist in guiding domestic matters which have not thorough and direct responsibility for their work. If this is done, not only will the work very probably be performed in a slipshod and perfunctory manner, but most likely dispeace will occur between those who are thought to be interfering and the staff, who naturally appeal to the main source of authority. The plan only works well, as a rule, when the Ladies Committee is acquiescent and then it does no material good.

*(To be concluded.)*

## Reflections.

### FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

The Local Government Board has issued an Order entrusting to the Managers of the Metropolitan Asylums Board the charge of sick, convalescent, and debilitated children chargeable to Metropolitan Guardians, and now accommodated for the most part in the infirmaries of those boards. The M.A.B. has decided to utilise the Southern Hospital at Carshalton for this purpose, and it will be known in future as "The Children's Infirmary."

The Duke of Wellington, K.G., has consented to be nominated as Chairman of the Royal Hants County Hospital, an office which has been vacant since the death of the Right Hon. Evelyn Ashley.

The Building Committee of the Swansea Hospital recommend a large scheme for extending and altering the hospital. Thirteen items are proposed, the most important being an immediate increase of about eight beds and provision for an additional fifty beds in two wards, when required; accommodation for eight nurses and ten servants; the kitchens to be remodelled and removed; a general

store-room; a larger electro-therapeutical room; the enlargement of dispensary and casualty department; balconies for the wards; and eye hospital improvements. We learn that the improvements absolutely necessary are a dining-hall and bed-room accommodation for the nurses, and servants' kitchen accommodation.

The proposed extensions at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital are estimated to cost £45,000.

The accommodation in the Leicester Nurses' Home must be increased by the addition of 10 bedrooms, because extra nurses will be necessary for the new isolation and septic blocks, as well as for some of the other schemes. The cost of this extension, with equipment, will be £1,420.

Dr. Lowson, one of the medical officers of Forfar Infirmary, dissents from the opinion of his professional brethren regarding the efficiency of the management of that institution, including the nursing arrangements. The Directors held their annual meeting in the Town Hall recently, at which Dr. Lowson submitted a separate report, and at a subsequent meeting of the subscribers he put forward a resolution to have an inquiry made by a medical expert into the administration of the Infirmary. The Directors, of course, consider the investigation unnecessary. It is ever thus with the powers that be. When a person has the courage to tackle reforms single handed he usually possesses the perspicuity to be right.

The work of Dundee Royal Infirmary, as shown by the statistics, continues to grow, and, of course, the expenses increase in ratio. While this was remarked upon at the last meeting of the Governors, the gratifying announcement was made that Mr. Robert Sime, Mundamalla, Newtyle, had gifted 1,000 guineas to endow a cot in the children's ward in memory of his late wife.

The fiftieth annual report of the Board of Superintendence of the Dublin Hospitals has just been issued. The Commissioners state that during the year ending 31st March last they inspected all the hospitals which received grants from Parliament, and reported that all the hospitals are managed in a thoroughly satisfactory and economic fashion. They express their sympathy with the movement for checking the spread of tuberculosis, and express the opinion that not only are sanatoria for pulmonary phthisis a necessity, but there is also necessity in every hospital for wards for the isolation of suppurating wounds. There is not, the Inspectors add, one Dublin hospital with an income in excess of expenditure, or in which some useful addition or change does not wait on the pecuniary means to carry it out. There is not one of them which does not, from an economic and charitable point of view, give full value.

Bovril, which has been the only beef beverage authorised to be sold at the Franco-British Exhibition, has now been awarded two grands prix.

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