

REFLECTIONS.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

Princess Louise (Duchess of Argyll) will attend the opening session of the Imperial Conference of Teachers' Associations, which the League of the Empire intends to convene in London in July.

The Lord Mayor will preside at the annual meeting of the New Hospital for Women, Euston Road, on Monday afternoon, March 4th.

Lord Donoughmore, the Treasurer, will take the chair on Friday, March 15th, at the Annual General Meeting of the London Homœopathic Hospital, Great Ormond Street. The hospital has a deficit on the income and expenditure account to December 31st last of £1,624. Donations to reduce this deficit will be gladly received by the Treasurer.

The new wing at the Royal Infirmary, Bristol, which is a Memorial to King Edward VII., is growing rapidly, and in a few months will be ready for the reception of patients. "But," said the Chairman, Sir George White, at the annual meeting, "we are making a great draft on faith. We are forced to sell out part of our investments to meet the immediate cost, and shall probably have to draw upon those funds for that purpose to the extent of £50,000. That our policy of the 'ever-expanding door' is a correct one cannot be doubted, and we appeal to donors to come forward and see to it that our Invested Funds Account is not permanently depleted by reason of our fixed resolve to keep abreast of the ever-increasing demands of the poor people who so urgently need the services of our Infirmary."

The Governors of the Sussex Eye Hospital, Brighton, at their annual meeting adopted the following resolution with the view to preventing further imposition of work, the cost of which they consider should be borne by the State.

"No person who is entitled to free medical or surgical assistance under any Act of Parliament, Order in Council, or Order of a Government Department or local authority, society, company, association or person wholly or partially financed by the State or out of the rates, is entitled to the benefits of this Institution, but the Committee of Management may, if they think fit, from time to time make, and afterwards vary or rescind, rules for the admission of all or any such persons or classes of persons."

Colonel Somers Clarke, who moved the resolution, pointed out that efforts were being made to secure treatment at the voluntary hospitals for school children, whose medical treatment should be charged upon the rates, thus throwing an undue and improper amount of work upon the medical staff of the institution which was never intended.

RED CRESCENT SOCIETY.

The press has been informed that the first British field hospital under the Red Crescent Society for work among Ottoman sick and wounded and refugees in the Tripolitan hinterland has left England. The British Foreign Office has lent its assistance to the enterprise.

The Italian, Turkish, and French Governments have been fully informed. The mission consists entirely of Englishmen, and comprises two surgeons, two assistant doctors, two male nurses, and a manager, who will escort the mission to the Turkish headquarters and then return. The mission itself will remain for at least six months. The members left Marseilles on the 16 inst. for Sfax, from which place they will travel over the desert by motor and camel to the Turkish headquarters.

Funds have been provided by British sympathisers and by Moslems in India and England. The two head surgeons are Messrs. Bernard Haigh and Charles Edgar Holton Smith, and they are assisted by Messrs. Robt. Trail Brochie and Joseph S. Lauder, of the London Hospital. Messrs. G. Johnson and William Kirby are the male nurses.

The general manager of the field hospital is Mr. Cuthbert Francis Dixon Johnson.

MICROBENE.

We have pleasure in directing the attention of our readers, both nurses and midwives, to the value of "Microbene" as a lubricant antiseptic and disinfectant. It is supplied by Robert Young & Co., 38, Elliot Street, Glasgow, and is used in the Royal Infirmary, the Maternity Hospital, the Victoria Hospital, Ruchill Hospital, Belvedere Hospital, and a number of others in that city, as well as in the Royal Infirmary and the Maternity Hospital in Edinburgh, and many other important Scottish Hospitals.

In England it is used extensively in the Leeds, Manchester and Newcastle-on-Tyne Hospitals, also at the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan, the Stockport Infirmary, the South Devon Hospital, Plymouth, and many others.

A bacteriological report shows that Microbene compares favourably with carbolic acid in its germicidal powers. It is recommended that it should never be used at a less strength than 1 in 500, and generally not less than 1 in 300.

Time experiments showed that testing its effects on one of the sewage bacteria a solution of 1 in 100 was sufficient to prevent development after immersion in it from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 minutes. Carbolic acid required at least three times as long to effect the same result.

The price of a 16-ounce bottle is 1s. 6d.

Some of the merits of Microbene are that it lathers very easily and not only disinfects, but cleans instruments, for which a solution of 1 in 100 is recommended. It does not stain the skin and has no injurious effect on clothing.

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