

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



HER Royal Highness Princess CHRISTIAN will open the Newington Free Library in the Walworth Road on the 28th inst.

MISS ANNIE SMITH has been appointed Assistant Matron to the Paddington Infirmary, Harrow Road. Miss SMITH was trained and certificated at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, from 1888 to 1891. She has since undertaken Nursing work in the provinces and temporary holiday duty at St. Mary's. Nothing can be more satisfactory in our workhouse infirmaries than a system of appointing thoroughly trained Nurses like Miss ANNIE SMITH to the positions of responsibility.

MISS MARGARET WALKER, trained and certificated at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, has been appointed Charge Nurse in the Parochial Infirmary, Dundee.

"THE Royal" seems to be the mother-house from whence are drawn all the Matrons and Sisters for Institutions in the west of Scotland, and this speaks volumes for the high estimation in which its graduates are held by the surrounding community.

A SALE of Articles suitable for Christmas gifts, and ranging from a few shillings in price, will be held in the Westminster Town Hall, on November the 20th, 21st, and 22nd, in aid of several estimable charities, amongst them the Soup Kitchen and Club Rooms, St. Bartholomew's the Great, West Smithfield. Mrs. BORROWDIALE SAVORY will preside at the stall in this good cause, and Nurses could not do better than purchase their Christmas presents from her in the cause of Charity.

A MEETING, in support of the Lincolnshire Nursing Association, was lately held in the Masonic Hall, Lincoln. The Earl of WINCHILSEA presided, and he was supported by the President of the Association (Lady WINCHILSEA), Sir HICKMAN BACON, the Mayor of Lincoln, and others. Lord WINCHILSEA spoke of the great advantage of the public system which secured a certain standard of excellence, and prevented the handing over of the great power which Nurses exercised to unskilled and untrained women. He said they could not praise too much the spirit in which the County Councils of Lincolnshire had recognised a great public necessity in the training of Nurses. Resolutions were adopted commending the Association to the support of the county; recognising that the

County Councils, in providing Nursing Scholarships, had rendered important public service; and relating to the carrying on of the work.

THE Technical Education Board of the London County Council has definitely decided on the offer of a grant to each of the recognised London Polytechnics, on condition that a school of domestic economy is established where girls who have completed their elementary education, and are willing to give their time for six months to the subject, may go through a complete course of education in household duties. A certain number of free scholars will be nominated by the board to each class, probably girls who have won the minor scholarships of the School Board, and these will have free food and clothing (made by themselves) during the course. Other pupils will pay a moderate fee. A training college for teachers will, in addition, be established at Battersea Polytechnic, with a view to the extension of the movement.

THE following Report appeared in *The Times* on the 13th inst. :—

"At Manchester, on Friday, before Mr. Justice Day and a special jury, the case of 'Fincken v. the Manchester Royal Infirmary' was tried. Mr. Shee, Q.C., and Mr. Parry were for the plaintiff; Mr. Gully, Q.C., M.P., and Mr. Sutton for the defendants. The plaintiff is a Hospital Nurse, and claims a *mandamus* commanding the defendants, who are the president, &c., of the Manchester Royal Infirmary, to hold an examination for nurses by the medical board, and to allow her to present herself for examination, and to compel the defendants to grant her a certificate of efficiency as a trained Nurse if the medical board report her to be so qualified. Mr. Shee, in opening, said the plaintiff entered the service of the defendants on November 2, 1889, under a contract which contained the following clause:—'At the end of their three years' service, those Nurses who have passed in a satisfactory manner through the course of training and instruction, and who, after an examination held by a Committee of the medical board, are reported qualified, will receive certificates of efficiency as trained Nurses.' She served at the Hospital till November 2, 1892, completing the three years, and on November 20, 1892, was sent to Lymn, in Cheshire, to take charge of a cottage used as a smallpox hospital. She remained there till November 25, when she left. She said that she left because the cottage was wholly unfit for a smallpox hospital, that there were not proper food or appliances provided, and she was also ill. The superintendent accordingly dismissed her, and this action was upheld by the defendants. The defendants refused to examine the plaintiff and give her a certificate of efficiency. At the end of Mr. Shee's opening, Mr. Gully addressed the Court on the point of law, and the Court ruled that on November 2, 1892, the plaintiff, having completed her three years' service, was entitled to be examined irrespective of any alleged misconduct afterwards. The defendants then agreed to a *mandamus* by consent."

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