

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE Duchess of YORK has presented the Royal Cambridge Asylum with a bath chair, which has been manufactured by the inventor, Mr. JOHN WARD, of Tottenham Court Road, London. The back of the chair is so arranged that by an ingenious mechanism its position may be altered to various angles in order that the invalid may be enabled to partially recline or sit upright. The chair has also an adjustable leg-rest, so that invalids with spinal complaints can lie quite flat. The chair is beautifully finished, great care having been given to its construction, and is the *fac-simile* of the chair exhibited by this firm in the British Nursing Section at the Chicago Exhibition, where it was universally admired and commended.

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MISS G. L. SPENCER has been appointed Lady Superintendent of the County Infirmary, Carlou. She was trained at Crumpsall Infirmary, Manchester, and was afterwards a Sister at the Nursing Institution and Memorial Hospital, Mildmay. Miss SPENCER has also held the responsible positions of Night Superintendent at the National Hospital, Queen Square, and Assistant Matron at the Royal South Hants Infirmary at Southampton.

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WE learn with great regret, which will be shared by many members of the profession, that Miss MACKAY, who, as Sister-in-Charge of the Throat Hospital, Golden Square, has done so much to improve the efficiency and prestige of its Nursing Department, during the past few years, has been compelled by ill health to resign that post. The Committee, we hear, has suitably expressed its regret at losing her services, and has voted her a special honorarium in recognition of her valuable work for the Institution.

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EARL CADOGAN presided, on Monday afternoon, at a special meeting of the Governors of the Chelsea Hospital for Women, convened to promote an inquiry into the serious charges against the surgical and sanitary conduct of the Hospital, which were recently made by Dr. PARKES, Medical Officer of Health to the Chelsea Vestry. The principal charge alleged an undue mortality from unjustifiable operations. The Board of Management, in reply, accused Dr. PARKES of misrepresentation and unauthorised interference, and declared that had his reflections upon the professional probity and skill of the Staff been directed openly against any single

member thereof, he would have been proceeded against for libel. Both the Vestry and the Hospital authorities appealed to the Home Office and the Local Government Board to hold an official inquiry, but these departments replied that they had no power to do so. The correspondence having been read, Earl CADOGAN said these charges could not be overlooked or treated with levity. They involved the very existence of the Hospital, and, as the President, he did not hesitate to say that either they must prove those complaints to be without foundation, or he and a good many others would feel bound to withdraw their support. He had every confidence, however, that the charges would be fully met and satisfactorily refuted (hear, hear). But as they were denied a Government inquiry, they must try to obtain a competent tribunal in another way; and he suggested the appointment of a Committee of Inquiry, composed of eight members, viz., one nominated by the College of Physicians, one nominated by the College of Surgeons, three members of the consultative staff of the Hospital (Dr. BARNES, Sir T. SPENCER WELLS and Mr. JONATHAN HUTCHINSON), one nominated by the Chelsea Vestry, and also Lord SANDHURST and Sir C. DILKE, M.P.—Sir A. BORTHWICK, M.P., formally moved the adoption of the Chairman's suggestion. He believed that in future the Hospital would be more than ever successful from having boldly met these charges, which had been sprung upon it so suddenly, and in such a surprising manner (hear, hear).—After some discussion the name of Lord BALFOUR, of Burleigh, was added to the proposed Committee, which was then appointed, and a vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the proceedings.

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THE Chelsea Hospital has done wisely and well to meet accusations in this manner. Everyone felt convinced that in Lord CADOGAN the Hospital had a President who would permit no attempt to shirk or evade inquiry to be made under cover of his name.

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DR. LOUIS PARKES has sent the following letter to the medical press concerning the statements of Mr. WRIGHT, the Treasurer of the Chelsea Hospital for Women:—

SIR,—A letter containing similar charges to that preferred against me by Mr. Wright, Treasurer to the Hospital, in your issue of to-day's date, has been sent to the Chairman of the Chelsea Vestry and to the Local Government Board. This letter has been referred to me by the Vestry for report, and no doubt also the Local Government Board will require to be furnished with a report. Under these circumstances it is impossible for me to reply to the assertions made in Mr. Wright's letter to you, and I must ask your readers to suspend their judgment as to the truth of the allegations for the present.—I am, Sir, yours truly,
Cadogan Square, S.W.,
March 10th, 1894.

LOUIS C. PARKES,

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