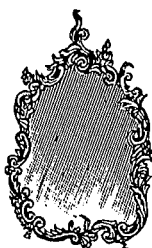


Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR



PROFESSOR LEYDEN has received the Order of Anne (Annenorden) of the First Class from the new Tsar. This Order was founded by CHARLES FREDERICK, Duke of Holstein, in 1735, in honour of his wife, ANNA PETROWNA, daughter of Peter the Great. The Emperor Paul I. divided it into three classes.

THE Royal Society medals have this year been awarded as follows:—The Copley medal to Dr. EDWARD FRANKLAND, for his valuable chemical researches; the Rumford medal to Professor DEWAR, for his much-discussed work on low temperatures; the Davy medal to Professor CLEVE, of Upsala, for researches into the chemistry of rare earths; and the Darwin medal to Professor HUXLEY, who of all men in the world is most entitled to hold it. The Royal medals have been conferred, with Her Majesty's approval, upon Professor J. J. THOMSON, for electrical work; and Mr. VICTOR HORSLEY, for his important investigations relating to the physiology of the nervous system and of the thyroid gland.

THE City Orthopædic Hospital for Sick Children, Hatton Garden, E.C., has received a grant of £52 10s. from the Corporation of London towards the "Additional Cot Fund."

WE are glad to record that at last the Committee of the Chelsea Hospital have succumbed to public opinion and resigned—a course which they should have promptly adopted upon the issue of the adverse report of Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH'S Special Committee. It is hoped that the medical staff will also place their resignations in the hands of the new Committee, so that the new appointments may be made in a thoroughly straightforward manner, after due consideration, and thus remove the very unpleasant impression made, upon the minds of those able to judge in this matter, that grave injustice has been done to certain members of the late medical staff of the Chelsea Hospital in the recent unbecoming election.

WE have spoken upon more than one occasion of the absolute irresponsibility of the majority of Hospital Governors, and the light and airy manner in which they accept duties for which they have neither knowledge nor time. It would be well if each person who is empowered to control Hospital affairs, and, in consequence, who makes himself responsible for the *lives of the sick*, and the spending

of public funds, should qualify himself for such important duties by acquiring some practical knowledge concerning the responsible work he undertakes. This would be specially advantageous so far as the future education of Nurses is concerned, as at present their important department is usually dispatched after five minutes' consideration upon the report of an official—dove-tailed in very often between the consideration of contracts for foreign meat and of the breakdown of the model laundry.

A CONFERENCE was recently held at 83, Lancaster Gate, on the invitation of the Earl of MEATH, to consider the best means of arousing interest throughout the country in the matter of Poor-Law Reform, especially in regard to the election of women under the Parish Councils Act. Among those present were Princess CHRISTIAN, Mr. W. T. STEAD, Miss LIDGETT, Poor Law Guardian, St. Pancras, Miss FLORENCE BALGARNIE, and the Bishop of BRISBANE. Many letters were received expressing sympathy with the object of the gathering, the principal ones being from Cardinal VAUGHAN, the Archbishop of CANTERBURY, Miss NIGHTINGALE, and Professor HUXLEY. "On the general question of engaging women in administrative duties, I am quite on your side," wrote Professor HUXLEY. "They want education in this direction more than any other. The best of women are apt to be a little weak in the great practical arts of give-and-take and putting up with a beating, and a little too strong in their belief in the efficacy of Government. Men learn about these things in the course of their ordinary business; women have no chance in home life, and the Boards and Councils will be capital schools for them. Again, in the public interest it will be well; women are more naturally economical than men, and have none of our false shame about looking after pence. Moreover, they don't job for any but their lovers, husbands, and children, so that we know the worst."

THE *British Medical Journal* again draws attention to Poor-Law Nurses by describing the vague manner in which Guardians advertise for fresh help. The applicant must have had "previous experience in Nursing," "experience of Nursing in some public Institution," "a year's training in some public Institution," "be competent to treat ophthalmia and scrofula," "be qualified to perform the duties prescribed by the order of the Local Government Board," "preference given to candidates who have had similar experience." The salaries offered are extraordinarily divergent, varying from £16 to £40 annually, being frequently, however, nearer the former than the latter sum. If Guardians want efficient service, they must be prepared to pay for it, and trained Nurses will not be tempted by salaries lower than £25 or £30 a year.

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