

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



MISS ADELAIDE ROW has been appointed Lady Superintendent of the East London Children's Hospital at Shadwell. Miss Row was trained at the Shadwell Hospital from 1883 to 1884, and at St. Bartholomew's from 1884 to 1885, and was appointed Sister at Shadwell, where she worked from 1885 to 1893, from whence she was appointed Matron of the Jenny Lind Hospital for Children at Norwich, so that it will be seen that she has devoted years of work in the service of the Institution which has been fortunate enough to secure her as Superintendent. Miss Row is a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association and a Registered Nurse.

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PRINCESS EDWARD of Saxe-Weimar has consented to open the Annual Exhibition and Sale of Work made by the members of the Children's Salon, which will be held on the 20th inst., at Westminster Town Hall, with a view to completing the endowment of a Children's Cot in the North-West London Hospital, Camden Town.

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THE Bishop of SOUTHWARK, acting for the Bishop of ROCHESTER who is indisposed, recently dedicated the Chapel at the British Home for Incurables. The Chapel is the gift of Miss LEICESTER, and has cost £1,800. A pleasing circumstance in connection with this event and the opening of the New Home at Streatham last July was the presentation of a handsome Silver Goblet to the Secretary, Mr. R. GOFTON SALMOND, from the in-patients as a mark of their esteem and affection for him.

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THE Quarterly Court of Governors of the London Hospital was held on the 5th inst. There were about 40 present, a fact in itself showing how much more interest is now taken in this great Institution than was the case before its management was called in question—when it was often a matter of difficulty to get a quorum of Governors together. The Committee asked for power to spend between £10,000 and £11,000 in building a new Nursing Home to accommodate about 70 Nurses, an addition of about 40 Nurses to the present number being contemplated. The Committee, in fact, are gradually and slowly carrying out one after another of the various reforms and improvements which were urged upon them at the time of the House of Lords' Committee in 1890. In due course we

may hope to see the term of training advanced to the modern standard—to see the Probationers get three weeks' holiday in the year, and even, perhaps, to see the custom of sending out Probationers as "thoroughly trained Nurses" discontinued.

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THE *Westminster Gazette* has recently devoted considerable space to some articles upon "The Waste of Funds in London Hospitals." The writer, who terms himself "Scrutator," however, has evidently a most meagre acquaintance with his subject. There is no doubt that, in the main, there is a great expenditure of charitable funds caused at present by the large number of small Hospitals, each with its secretary and its administrative and official staff to maintain. It is beyond dispute that much greater economy would be secured were many of these Institutions obliterated, or were they amalgamated under one management. Unfortunately, however, London is an enormous province, and it is requisite, therefore, to have institutions very widely scattered in order that they shall be available for the sick poor. Practically, indeed, one vast Hospital in a central position would be the cheapest method of conducting the medical charity of the Metropolis, but it would be impossible for the very sick on the outskirts of the city to reach it, and, therefore, its economy would be altogether destroyed by its complete inefficiency.

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"Scrutator" will arouse the amusement of all Hospital workers by his argument that there are an unnecessary number of beds, and by the proofs which he advances in support of this statement, namely, that Hospitals, which contained so many beds had, on the average, during the whole year, some twenty per cent. of their total beds unoccupied. He is, evidently, oblivious of the fact, of which any Probationer could have informed him, that, during certain times of the year, the pressure on the wards of a Hospital is much greater than at other times; and, secondly, that Hospitals, like private houses, require to be cleaned and renovated, which, in their case, means, every year, a considerable number of beds rendered unoccupied. He, evidently does not know that it is by no means infrequent, when a Hospital is in full working order, for it to contain more patients than its nominal number of beds; and, on the other hand, that whole wards are emptied at other times for cleaning and painting.

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"Scrutator" evidently desires to close Special Hospitals in preference to General; once more oblivious of the fact that by so doing he would create a vacancy in medical relief which it would be beyond power of General Hospitals to supply. His articles are chiefly interesting as another proof of

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)