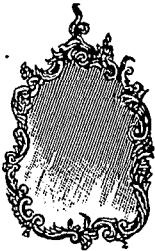


## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THEIR Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of YORK have promised to visit Birmingham on Saturday, September 8, in order to lay the foundation-stone of the New General Hospital, a building which is to cost over £200,000.

It has been recently announced that her Royal Highness the Duchess of YORK has graciously consented to become a vice-patron of Queen Charlotte's Lying-in Hospital, which has already the honour of possessing the QUEEN for its patron and the Princess of WALES as a vice-patron.

Miss AGNES ATTHILL has been appointed Lady Superintendent of the Royal Derby and Derbyshire Nursing and Sanitary Institute. She was trained at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington.

THE following Sisters of the Community of St. Laurence Belper passed the July examination of the L.O.S. :—Sister WINNIFRED, Sister HILDA, and Sister EMILY.

THE Incorporated Medical Practitioners' Association seems to be an eminently popular body, to judge from the long list of new members which appear almost weekly in its official organ, the *Medical Times and Hospital Gazette*.

THE Goldsmiths' Company have sent £25, and the Drapers' Company £31 10s., to the funds of Mrs. Gladstone's Convalescent Home at Woodford.

FROM the Annual Report of the Royal Hants County Hospital at Winchester we learn that the private nursing branch of the hospital work has continued to be highly appreciated in all parts of the county and elsewhere. The letters received from the friends of those who have had the advantage of the services of the Nurses, and from the patients themselves, bear ample testimony to their efficiency. The Committee feel that thanks are especially due to the Lady Superintendent, Mrs. Suckling, not only in this respect, but also for her other efforts on behalf of the Hospital. The demand for private Nurses has so largely increased that the Committee have it under consideration to add to their numbers. The four wards of the Hospital (other than that devoted to accidents) have been given names in place of the mere numerical designation which have hitherto distin-

guished them. Thus, "No. 1, Men's Ward," will in future be known as the "Heathcote Ward," in remembrance of the invaluable services rendered to the Hospital by the late Sir William Heathcote, of Hursley. "No. 2, Men's Ward," becomes the "Bartlett Ward," in recognition of the generous pecuniary benefaction of Mr. John Bartlett in 1819. "No. 1 and 2, Women's Wards," have been entitled respectively the "Victoria" and the "Nightingale Ward."

The annual course of lectures to the Nurses of the Hospital was kindly undertaken by Dr. Harman. Twelve Nurses entered for the examination, and the prizes were awarded by Mrs. William Portal on December 6th, in the presence of a large gathering of friends and neighbours. The following was the order of merit :—1st prize, Miss Macdonald; 2nd, Miss M. Pineo and Nurse A. Purchall; 3rd, Miss E. Towgood. Certificates were awarded to Miss Vernon, Miss Harwood, Miss Aytoun, Nurses McGill, Fletton, James, Lamb, and Lampard.

THE Commissioners in Lunacy, says the *Daily News*, in their annual report—

"Express their regret that there is still no token of any renewal on the part of the public of the benevolent spirit which led to the establishment of the Hospitals proper. 'Practical benevolence,' they go on to say, 'could take no more valuable form, as we know from our experience in asylums and among the insane. In all the existing Hospitals much charitable assistance is no doubt rendered; in some of them perhaps less is done in this direction than might properly be expected; but it must be remembered that many of them are practically unendowed, and able, therefore, to contribute only of the funds which arise from a more or less precarious income.' The Commissioners further observe that it is greatly to be hoped, in the interest of the large number of persons of limited means, but socially much above the pauper class, who are attacked with insanity, that not only will the benevolent public aid in the establishment and endowment of new Hospitals on a charitable basis, but that such of the existing Hospitals as are in receipt of large surplus incomes will out of these endow themselves and gradually receive an increasing number of patients at reduced rates of payment.

Having regard to the urgent need for asylum accommodation for the class just above pauperism, and those of the insane whose means are too straightened to meet charges higher than from 15 to 20 shillings a week, and also to the apparent inability of the registered hospitals to extend their charity, the Commissioners in Lunacy, in their Report to the Lord Chancellor strongly advocate the exercise by County and Borough Councils of their statutory discretion to make provision for poor lunatics of the private class, especially in large centres of population. They plead for this course not only as just towards a large proportion of the population, the lower middle-class, but because they believe that it may be a source of profit to the whole body of ratepayers. The Commissioners are disposed to think that, by adopting this course, Councils might acquire a considerable number of the beds occupied in existing asylums by patients whom their relatives would be glad to transfer if the stigma of the receipt of parish relief might thereby be removed. In regard to asylum accommodation for poor middle-class patients, they draw attention to the fact that Scotland is considerably ahead of England."

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