

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE PRINCESS CHRISTIAN has accepted the dedication of a cot in the North West London Hospital, Kentish Town Road, which has been founded by the members of "The Children's Salon" as the result of their work in art, literature, and music, and Her Royal Highness has consented to its being entitled "The Helena Cot." This is the second cot endowed by "The Children's Salon," which consists of some 3,000 young workers all over the Kingdom.

A large bazaar, in which the Empress Dowager of Russia is interesting herself, is to be held in St. Petersburg at Christmas, the object being to provide funds for two Convalescent Homes. At the present time such a thing as a convalescent home does not exist. These two homes are meant for the benefit of the professional classes, such as tutors, governesses, employees in business, of whom very many are English. All the foreign Embassies are interesting themselves in the bazaar, and each nation will have a stall of its own.

Dr. Parker, the Treasurer of Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, in addressing the Governors at a recent Court, made a gentle suggestion that some of them might increase the two-guinea subscription which entitled them to be Governors, especially as the financial position showed a deficit of £292 15s. 9d. He pointed out that in other towns there was no "two-guinea limit" and that some subscribers gave £10, £20 and £30. But perhaps Mr. Parker forgot that other towns are better off than Cambridge, where most people live by intellectual effort—which is always poorly paid.

The Mile-end Guardians have forwarded plans to the Local Government Board for lighting the workhouse premises with electricity at a cost of £5,000.

The Middlesex County Asylum at Wandsworth Common is to have the important addition of a new annexe which will accommodate 200 patients. The foundation stone was laid last week.

Mr. Lionel Hill has retired from the Secretaryship of the North London Consumption Hospital, and candidature for the post is being invited.

While the Metropolitan Asylums Board have been providing most inadequate accommodation for small-pox and fever patients, Edinburgh has been faring somewhat worse. The City Hospital for Infectious Diseases has been so crowded that in some cases two patients have had to be put in one bed! Hamburg during its cholera epidemic was never so badly off as this.

Captain Fred Collins, the genial skipper of the "Skylark," has for twenty-six years taken his yacht out on an excursion for the benefit of the Sussex County Hospital. And unfaillingly the weather has been favourable, so that Brighton folk feel just a little bit superstitious on the subject. Many a time a gale has been blowing a day before that fixed for the trip, and hurricanes have threatened, but invariably the gallant little craft has sailed out with a fair wind and a "summer sea." On the trip of this season there was a goodly gathering, and many of the passengers sang nautical songs; the captain told some capital sea yarns, and addressed the passengers on behalf of the Hospital. He will be able to hand over about £5 to the treasurer as the result of his kindly action, and a pleasant trip "on the ocean wave."

The new Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital of Cork is to be built on admirable lines, and on an excellent site, and it is to be absolutely fire-proof throughout, and the main staircase will also be impervious to heat.

Mrs. Saxton, of the Elms, Shrewsbury, has given a sum of money to the Salop Infirmary from the funds of the Gwyn Trust. The interest of this money is to be devoted to the maintenance in perpetuity of two beds in the children's ward, over each of which an inscription will be placed stating the endowment to have been furnished by Mrs. Saxton in memory of her parents.

The hero of the hour is Dr. Charles Toller, of Ilfracombe, who received his medical education at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where he was at one time house surgeon, and where he met his charming wife, the late Sister Lawrence. His courage and devotion was put severely to the test when, in his desire to help a sailor cast up on the dangerous rocks at Hall's Bush in Lee Bay, he caused himself, in a terrible gale of wind, to be lowered over a perpendicular cliff 150 feet high, with the imminent danger of being dashed against the cliff. He administered restoratives to the shipwrecked man, and remained with him some three hours. It must be a grief to Dr. Toller that, after all, his heroic measures were not successful, as the man died subsequently from exhaustion, after rescue by boat became possible.

The Gentlewoman announces its determination to present £200 as a Christmas gift to charitable institutions in sums of £50 each, to selected charities, be it hospital, orphanage, or mission in Ireland, Wales, and Scotland, and £25 each to a Yorkshire and a Devonshire Institution. The charities are to be recommended by readers of the paper, and the sums are to go to those institutions which have the majority of votes. There are plenty of charities which are badly in need of such Christmas gifts, and it is hoped the example of *The Gentlewoman* will be followed by other papers.

Berlin should look to its sanitation. We have already heard some of the horrors connected with the milk supply. And we are also getting facts about the way in which the people live. The condition of the tenements and the fact that there are in the city some 100,000 "cellar-dwellers," and that ventilation and drainage are factors undreamt of in the philosophy of a great many of the builders of poor-class houses, would lead to the fear that Berlin will some day initiate an epidemic like unto that at Hamburg. There is plenty of material in Berlin to form excellent breeding-grounds for epidemics of all kinds.

The American scientific journals are noting with extreme alacrity the recent reports on the deplorable character of British milk. Thus, in spite of an army of analysts and a legion of presumably active and intelligent inspectors, out of fifty samples of London milk examined by Mr. Cassal, twenty-four were found to be below the lowest standard, and ten more below the standard requiring 3.5 per cent. of fat. A fourth of them had been tampered with by boric acid, while Mr. Rowlands' bacteriological examinations absolutely make the timid mother's flesh creep at the thought of her little ones swallowing such frightful things. From the standpoint of mere dirtiness the London cowkeeper appears to be no improvement on his Berlin brethren, whose iniquity we had recently occasion to note.

The deaths are announced of Sir Thomas Crawford, late Director of the Army Medical Department, and well known for his interest in sanitary matters; of Dr. John Keith, formerly surgeon for women's diseases at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh; also of Dr. John Cockburn Messer, Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals and Fleets, who took part in the Baltic Expedition of 1854, as assistant-surgeon of the "Duke of Wellington" and the "Centaur."

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