

## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



H.R.H. PRINCESS HENRY OF BATTENBERG, opened, on October 31st, the new Royal Hospital for sick children at Edinburgh. The block plan of the main Hospital building is in the form of the letter E, the administrative block being in the centre of the building, and the wards in the two arms, cut off from the centre by disconnecting cross ventilated corridors. Badges were presented to the Nursing staff by Princess Henry in commemoration of the occasion, and in the east wing H.R.H. named one of the wards the "Beatrice ward." She was presented by Mr. Hall Blyth with a gold badge as a souvenir of the ceremony. The Royal party afterwards visited the children's shelter in High Street.

Some extremely interesting relics of the celebrated surgeon, John Hunter, have just been presented to the Royal College of Surgeons. The collection includes his portrait, his clock and family Bible, and letters from most of the celebrities and important persons of his time.

The Liverpool Workhouse Committee acting on the recommendation of their medical officer, are procuring an "incubator" for the infants under their care. The doctor reported that many wretched babies who were taken to the workhouse, died from want of vital heat, and with an "incubator" many lives might be saved. The "incubator" will hold four children, and the uniform temperature will be maintained by the usual hot-water apparatus.

A sale of work will be held at the Royal Westminster Eye Hospital, King William Street, Strand, on the 4th and 5th of December, with the object of adding to a fund which has been started for the rebuilding of the Hospital. Contributions of any kind will be gratefully received by the Matron, Mrs. Horden. As showing the necessity for rebuilding the Hospital, it is stated that during the month of October no fewer than 1,015 new out-patients were relieved.

Thanks to the generosity of the women medical students and their friends, each floor of the Royal Free Hospital is now provided with an organ, and the instruments are easily run across from one ward to another. They are hopeful of purchasing a piano. The organs have been warmly welcomed by Sisters and Nurses.

The lady cyclists of the London School of Medicine for Women, form a fairly large band, but are not quite organised into a concerted club, so that they were obliged to decline the suggestion thrown out by the students of another Hospital, that the women medicos should be represented in the Inter-Hospital Cyclists' Club.

Mr. Roughton has won the gratitude of many of the women students going up for their finals, by his kindness in devoting an afternoon to them in the museum at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Clinical teaching and lectures on lunacy are now open at Homerton and Colney Hatch, where patients suffering from the different forms of insanity, are brought in and shown to the various classes.

Several charitable institutions north of the Tweed will benefit considerably by the performances of "Diplomacy" which Lord Rosslyn and his company, including Lady Marjoribanks and the Earl of Kilmorey, have recently given in Edinburgh and elsewhere. Lord Rosslyn assumed the

part of Julian Beauclere. There is some chance that Lord Rosslyn may be induced to repeat the performance in London for the benefit of the victims of the recent disaster near the Strand.

Miss Harriet Hopkins, of New Steine, Brighton, has bequeathed £1,000 to the Throat Hospital, Golden Square.

The late Sir W. Mackenzie, K.C.B., honorary physician to the Queen, has been buried in Kensal Green Cemetery.

The final meeting in connection with the Hospital Saturday movement for the current year, took place at Gainsborough on November 2nd. The Lincoln and Steaford Committees journeyed to Gainsborough by special train, and were met at the station by the local committee. The Mayor of Lincoln said their Hospital did not stand behind any other Hospital in the world for economical management and for the care and comfort bestowed upon the patients. There was a slight falling off in the sum of the collections, explained by the General Election and the needs of various district Nursing Associations which called for local help, but the result of nearly £150 was hailed with congratulations.

Earl Compton, M.P., presided on Saturday at the annual meeting in aid of the Homes for Little Boys, Farningham and Swanley, Kent, the gathering being held in the Queen's Hall, Langham Place. The Homes maintain, educate, and give industrial training to 500 orphan and other necessitous boys, and it is stated that £3,000 is urgently needed to clear off outstanding liabilities.

Although entertainments have for some time helped to wile away the tedious hours to the inmates of Lambeth Workhouse, it would seem that the songs, without piano accompaniment, have fallen somewhat flat, so the Guardians have determined to meet the case by hiring a piano tentatively, and for six months, at a charge of fifteen shillings a month. It is hoped by the inmates that this will result in the instrument becoming permanent workhouse property.

The Eastbourne Town Council, in their endeavour to add to the attractions of their favourite watering-place, have decided to promote a Parliamentary Bill to provide a supply of pure and wholesome water for the town. They allege that the Eastbourne Water Company supplies them with hard water heavily charged with salt.

Mr. Passmore Edwards, with his universal benevolence, and impressed by the great need of a Hospital for Tilbury Dock, has undertaken to build a Cottage Hospital at a cost of £2,000, while the Docks Committee has given an excellent site and a sum of £500 to defray the cost of the foundations. The public are asked to provide the means for furnishing and for its future support. A trained sick Nurse and Midwife will be appointed in connection with the institution, and these will attend the poor in their own homes at a small charge.

In some of the Western States of America a curious difficulty has arisen, and a question come up which awaits decision as to the proper responsibility for the care of the mildly insane. Many of these patients are discharged from Asylums as not being suitable patients, because they do not come under the meaning of the code which defines insane people as being those who are dangerous to the public. Many of these "mildly insane" patients are destitute, and the Courts have frequently committed them to the Hospitals. Now the Hospitals sturdily object, on the ground that such patients are not suitable to them. And as the system of Workhouses, as we understand the term, does not exist in America, the solution of the difficulty is not apparent.

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