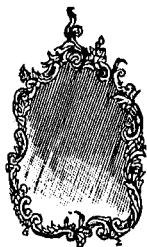


Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE Prince of Wales has consented to preside at a festival dinner in aid of the funds of Guy's Hospital in May next.

Princess Christian has consented to open a sale of work in aid of the Church Army at the Portman Rooms, Baker Street, on Monday afternoon, December 9th.

The treasurer of Guy's Hospital has received a cheque for £1,000 from Mr.

A. L. Cohen for the endowment of a bed in memory of his late son, H. A. Cohen.

A large supply of portable Pasteur filters have been provided in the equipment of the medical service in the coming Ashanti war. A hospital ship is to be equipped for the sick of the expeditionary force.

At the monthly meeting of the Association of Registered Medical Women, on November 5th, Mrs. Garrett Anderson was in the chair and thirty-four members were present. Miss Julia Cock, M.D., showed a case of the disease known as "sprue" or tropical diarrhoea. The patient, a young woman, had spent seven years in India. Miss Cock dwelt upon the diagnostic points which separate sprue from chronic dysentery, malaria, pernicious anaemia, and tuberculous ulceration of the intestines. The girl is now in the New Hospital for Women, and Miss Cock will be glad to show the case to any members of the profession interested in tropical diseases.

On her last voyage the "Britannia" brought ninety-seven cases from India to Netley for admission to the wards of the Royal Victoria Hospital.

To judge from the large number of citizens, medical and lay, who express their approval of cremation as a mode of disposal of the dead, the success of the new Liverpool crematorium, which is rapidly approaching completion, ought to be assured.

The Pharmaceutical Society intends to take steps to have carbolic acid placed on the poison schedule of the Pharmacy Act. Considering the large number of deaths constantly taking place from the accidental and intentional use of carbolic acid, it is quite time that some action was taken in the matter.

Sir Joseph Lister has been nominated by the retiring President and Council for election as President of the Royal Society.

The Duke of Devonshire will open the new Home (the Passmore Edwards Home) at Chalfont St. Peter, at 2.45 p.m., on November 26th.

A sale of work will take place on December 4th and 5th, at the Royal Westminster Eye Hospital in aid of the rebuilding of the Hospital.

The members of the Working Guild in connection with the Blackburn and East Lancashire Infirmary met at the Infirmary on Tuesday, November 12th. They had worked so well during the past year that they were able to hand to the Matron the very liberal supply of 530 articles, all of them useful, among them being over 200 flannel jackets of all sizes, the rest including shirts, night-shirts, &c. The members adopt the very practical plan of enquiring what is likely to be most needed, so that the Hospital stores are refurnished with the very articles which are most necessary.

An inquiry will be opened on Wednesday, the 27th inst., at Trinity House, for the purpose of considering the charitable endowments under the administration of the Elder Brethren of Trinity House.

The number of fever and diphtheria cases in the Metropolitan Hospitals is greatly in advance of the corresponding period of last year.

We are asked to give publicity to an appeal on behalf of the funds of the National Food Supply Association, which lays itself out to provide wholesome food to poor children attending elementary schools. The association has three large centres, where 12,000 meals a day can be turned out. The food—soup, pudding, and the like—conveyed in asbestos-lined carriers, arrives hot at its destination, mostly schools and poor homes. A charge of one penny a meal is made (except in the most desperate cases), and thus the independence of both parents and children is preserved. Subscriptions may be forwarded to the hon. treasurer, Mr. J. Oldfield, the City Bank (Ludgate Hill branch), or to Mr. A. C. Field organising secretary, Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, E.C.

It is the intention of the Governors of the Royal Newcastle Infirmary, to build a new Infirmary. At present the site has not been selected.

St. Saviour's Infirmary is to have the electric light in the Board Room and offices.

Our Foreign Letter.

IN AN ITALIAN HOSPITAL.
(PAGES FROM AN ENGLISHWOMAN'S DIARY.)

(Continued from page 339.)

May 3rd.—My poor Arzolina grows rapidly weaker, her hands shake so as she lifts the cup to her lips, and she drinks very slowly, or else rejects it. The pain is less after an attack of hæmorrhage, and so far the morphia hypodermic keeps her fairly benumbed, and the pain is not often unendurable. I go two or three times a day, and she likes talking and being talked to just for a little, and says I hurt her so much less (when giving the hypodermic) than poor good Cecchina. Sometimes she looks at me (almost like a devoted dog) and makes some pathetic little speech—"Per me è la Madonna" (You are like the Madonna to me), or, "Non sa come le voglio bene!" (You do not know how I care for you). Yesterday she added, "Se vi è il Paradiso, Dio le terrà proprio vicino a se" (If there is a Paradise, God will keep you near Him).

It is curious how Italians really care for any one who has the refinement of education, for I know their affection for me is not so much an *individual* as a *class* appreciation. There is no other *educated Nurse* here, so I get all their devotion. How nice it would be if each ward had at least one Nurse to be called "la Madonna," out of grateful affection. Rachele gives them great comfort, however; she has the true Nurse turn of hand, which is in itself almost a caress. I find one has to be a little teasing *in word* when caressing, or it makes them cry. Rachele generally makes the older women weep as she puts her hand on their head, and then often she has to joke to cheer them. It seems best to do both together, for then the tears are avoided, but yet—perhaps the shedding them with a warm arm round you is a relief, and deeper comfort than the cheering word.

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