

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE Prince of Wales has accorded his patronage to the Robin Society, which provides breakfasts and dinners for poor children at Christmaside, and has sent a donation of five guineas towards the funds.

At the ordinary fortnightly meeting of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, held on Saturday at the offices of the London County Council, Spring Gardens, under the presidency of Sir Edwin Galsworthy, it was reported that 3,562 cases of fever

were under treatment, as compared with 3,551 in the preceding fortnight. It was also stated that there were 77 cases of smallpox in the Hospitals of the Board, as compared with 87 in the preceding fortnight.

Prince Christian Victor of Schleswig-Holstein, says a telegram from Freetown, Sierra Leone, visited the Princess Christian Hospital on his arrival at that place. He was afterwards received by the Bishop and Mrs. Ingham at Bishops-court.

We congratulate the Hon. Sydney Holland, Chairman of the Poplar Hospital for Accidents, upon the generous response made to his appeal last week, for £3,000 to build an isolation block. As we go to press we learn that £2,484 14s. has already been subscribed, and that if the whole £3,000 is forthcoming, a gentleman who has known the district all his life, but who wishes to be anonymous, has most generously promised £2,000 to endow the new block, so that it may not be a drag on the funds of the Hospital. We have no doubt the £5,000 will be in the hands of the bankers—Messrs. Prescott, Dimsdale & Co., 50, Cornhill, E.C.

Miss Matilda M. Evans, Guardian of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, writes to the *St. James's Gazette* concerning the lack of accommodation for cases of infectious diseases, and regrets the fact that during the present epidemic of infectious cases in London, Gore Farm Hospital, with its 788 beds, stands empty. She appends the following scale showing the loss of beds since 1892:—

FEVER ACCOMMODATION.

	Year 1892	Year 1895	Loss	Gain
Eastern Hospital	522	391	131	
North-Eastern "	400	486		86
North-Western "	499	363	136	
Western "	376	366	10	
South-Western "	400	316	84	
Eastern "	458	390	68	
Northern (Conv.)	907	832	75	
Gore Farm	788	empty	788	
Fountain Hospital (new temporary)	—	421		421
Total for 1892	4,350	3,565		

A charming Hospital has recently been opened at Buluwayo. The institution which has been founded by the munificence of various donors anxious to serve the sick of that town, while establishing a lasting memorial to the heroism of the pioneers who fell in the Matabele War, cannot but be regarded as an estimable boon to Buluwayo and the district.

On Monday last, the 33rd Annual Meeting of the Surgical Aid Society was held at Cannon Street Hotel under the presidency of the Lord Mayor (Colonel and Alderman Sir Walter Wilkin). Mr. Richard Tresidder (secretary) read the report of the committee, from which it appeared that the scope and efficiency of the society's work had been further augmented during the past year. The income had amounted

to £10,599, which was a larger sum than that obtained in any previous twelve months. The total amount subscribed by the provincial branches, which now numbered fourteen, had been increased to nearly £800. During the period under review 13,345 patients had been relieved, including 1,542 children among whom 20,046 surgical instruments had been distributed. In addition, great relief had been afforded in many cases of temporary disablement and illness by the loan of air and water beds, invalid chairs, and other articles. Several supporters of the society had passed away during the year, but the committee were glad to state that their own ranks had been recruited by the addition of Mr. John Airey, Mr. Bompas, Q.C., and, since the close of the financial year, Sir Francis Jeune. The Lord Mayor moved the adoption of the report, and remarked that he found the society very highly spoken of wherever he went, and from what he had been able to learn of its work he believed it deserved the cordial support of the public. Mr. Alderman and Sheriff Pound seconded the motion, and the report was adopted. In the course of the proceedings the secretary announced that the contributions received in connection with the meeting amounted to £394.

The Annual Meeting of the Zenana Medical College was held at the College, Friday, the 6th inst. After the reading of the Report and Balance Sheet by the Hon. Secretary, the Chairman, the Rev. Dr. Hitchens, in a few opening words of hearty sympathy, said that in carrying on this noble work they were indeed following in the steps of the Master.

The Rev. J. B. Barraclough, M.A., in his earnest speech said they could not but be struck with the *economy* with which the work was carried on. He said: "It is a great privilege to carry on any work for the Master, and what better work, what more Christ-like work can there be than to care for the bodies and souls of our poor suffering sisters abroad? We know little, yet enough to do something to *help* this work. If not able to do much by large donations, they could help greatly if they would *talk* about the College, and write about it to their friends."

The Rev. Dr. Bruce followed, and in a very telling address, of which the key-note was Divine Sympathy, he spoke of the first three Missionary Meetings, the message at the first being Joy in a personal Saviour, "Behold! I bring you good tidings of great Joy . . . unto you is born . . . a Saviour." He said if there was anyone who did not care to send the tidings abroad, it was because they did not *know* the joy of God's Salvation for themselves. When they *knew*, then they would *feel* that Divine compassion which would make them respond to the second message of the second Missionary Meeting, which was "Pray ye the Lord of the Harvest that He will send forth labourers into His Harvest." The message at the third Meeting, at which *women* were present as well as men, was "Go ye." He said there was no greater honour than to be a lady *Medical* Missionary; but no worker needs more the power of the Holy Spirit.

Miss Poulton, of the British Syrian Mission, then gave some most interesting sketches of the transformation the Gospel of Christ Jesus had wrought in the homes of Syria. The way these poor ignorant ones lay hold of the teaching of God's Word, and seek to carry it out in their lives, is an example to Christians at home.

Dr. Routh followed, emphasising with much warmth the immense advantage of the two years' system of Medical training in its missionary aspect. From his personal knowledge of the students, as their Senior Lecturer, he could certify that in the two years' course they could, and did learn all that they needed for Medical Mission Work.

The Rev. Chas. Stirling and the Rev. T. R. Pickering warmly supported the cause in according a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman.

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