

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF YORK, during their short visit to Brighton last week, managed to find time for philanthropic and sympathetic visits. They went to the Police Seaside Home at West Brighton and also to the Home Dispensary.

At the Police Home Inspector Weidmer read an address of welcome, and Inspector Lambert presented the Duchess with a beautiful bouquet. Their Royal Highnesses went all over the Home, and expressed the pleasure they had derived from the visit. At the Dispensary they saw the Princess May cot, endowed in 1893 by the people of Hove in commemoration of the royal wedding, and the Duchess presented the three children in the ward with flowers from her bouquet. In the men's ward the Duchess unveiled a new bed, which has just been endowed by Mrs. Hammond to the memory of her husband. At night their Royal Highnesses visited the Brighton Theatre Royal, the performance being in aid of the Mayor's Sussex County Hospital Fund. By royal request, Mr. and Mrs. Kendal and company appeared in Mr. Sidney Grundy's comedy, "A White Lie."

Mr. Murray Braidwood, in an interesting article in the *Lancet*, advocates the formation of a Naval Ambulance Association for service in time of war. He says: "The Hospital ship is to be regarded as an integral part of the fleet of war. It ought never to be wanting, and should accompany the fleet as the ambulance or the field hospital the army. As long as Hospital ships and rafts are wanting the Naval Medical Service will be incomplete. Our work in warfare at sea consists not merely in tending the sick and wounded, but also in rescuing from an element whose strength it is above our power to control."

The medical arrangements connected with the Soudan Expedition seem to be excellent. Hunter Bey, senior medical officer to the Expedition, is now at Wady Halfa. In the base Hospital 340 beds will be provided. Preparations are also being made to convert a portion of the barracks into a Hospital. At Ambugol, on the river, a twenty-bed Hospital will be erected. Surgeon-Captain R. H. Penton has a section of the field Hospital at Akasheh, where there will also be a stationary Hospital. Hunter Bey is trying to arrange for the transport of the sick in native boats to the base Hospital. Till then the sick will be carried on camels, one man on each side, sitting on padded seats fixed to the saddle, called cacolets.

At a meeting recently of the Greenwich Board of Guardians, Miss M. Christie, M.B., was elected junior medical officer of the Workhouse, at a salary of £80, with board and residence. There were twenty-three applicants, of whom three were ladies. The Greenwich Board of Guardians are to be congratulated upon their common-sense in selecting so well qualified a candidate.

Lord Russell of Killowen presided on Tuesday at the Freemasons' Tavern over the annual festival in connection with King's College Hospital, and among those present were Mr. Richard Twining (the treas-

urer), the Rev. Dr. Wace, the Hon. R. C. Parsons, Sir A. C. Lyall, Sir J. B. Lyall, &c. In proposing the toast of the evening, "Success to King's College Hospital," the chairman referred to the great work which the institution had done in the past, and expressed his belief in the great work it had to do in the future. Like all flourishing institutions, King's College Hospital was in debt. It owed £6,000; its yearly expenses were between £19,000 and £20,000, and in respect of that large sum only £3,000 was secured, leaving about £17,000 to be made up of contributions from the public, the hospital funds, and subscribers. The Rev. Dr. Wace said they were obliged by their constitution, being associated with a great neighbouring medical school, to maintain 150 beds in full work. As a matter of fact, however, they maintained 200 beds. During the evening subscriptions and donations were announced amounting to £3,340, including £1,000 given by the Rev. Francis Jacox to endow a bed, £250 from the Clothworkers' Company, and £200 from Messrs. W. H. Smith and Sons. The sum announced exceeded that of last year by £700.

Some time ago the Directors of the Paisley Infirmary issued an appeal for subscriptions to erect a new Hospital at the cost of £63,000. Yesterday it was intimated that Mr. Peter Coats, of Ferguslie Thread Works, had promised a donation of £10,000. Mr. Coats previously subscribed £5,000, and is also building a Nurses' Home at a cost of about £10,000.

Arrangements have been all but completed for holding a Hospital Saturday in Dundee. The date fixed on is June 6th, and an influential Committee have the matter in hand. Several bands have agreed to give their services, and the route selected for the procession includes almost all the leading streets.

The new Firemaster at Edinburgh has been going over the arrangements for prevention of fire at the Royal Infirmary there, and his report is not altogether favourable. He suggests the advisability of prohibiting untrained persons having access to the Dispensary, and presses the removal of all but immediately necessary inflammable drugs to a specially built out-door store.

A painful feeling in Paris has been caused by the news of a tragic fire at the historic church and hospital of Saint Sauveur, at Lille. Apart from the victims of death by burning and suffocation, several typhus patients succumbed in the adjoining clergy house. To make the disaster more hideous, several soldiers were poisoned by drinking methylated spirits and ether in the hospital pharmacy, which they mistook for gin. The cause of the fire was probably due to the embers under a cauldron of molten lead left by workmen in the belfry.

Few English Hospitals have found themselves in the plight which has recently befallen a Hospital in New York. Recently when the House Surgeon was looking over the supply in the laboratory he discovered that a large glass jar containing morphine was missing from the shelf. The morphine stolen would, at wholesale rates, cost fully five dollars. To a morphine fiend it would be worth ten times that amount. The morphine was evidently stolen by someone who has access to the Hospital.

A New Yorker, reading in the papers of the loss sustained by the Hospital, at once despatched as a "set-off" to the theft a large package of antiseptic gauze. So that while some steal, others donate.

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