

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



PRINCESS LOUISE has sent four framed pictures to brighten the wards of the Victoria Hospital for Children, of which she is patron.

The Duchess of Connaught has consented to open a bazaar to be held in the West End in June next in aid of the North-Eastern Hospital for Children, Hackney Road.

For many years the members of the Royal College of Surgeons of England have been endeavouring to obtain some share in the election of the members of the College Council. The whole of the executive power of the College is vested in the Council, but the right of voting at the Council election is confined to the Fellows. The members are by far the more numerous body, but all their efforts to get representation have been met by a *non possumus* from the Council. At the last annual meeting of Fellows and members a resolution was carried affirming that it was desirable to increase the number of the Council, and that the extra Councillors should be elected by the members. This resolution was forwarded to the Council, and by that Body was brought before the Fellows at their meeting on Thursday for consideration. After much discussion, a resolution was passed by a large majority to the effect that it was desirable that there should be direct representation of the members on the Council. The matter now goes back to the Council for the consideration of details. A resolution authorising admission of women to the examination for the College diploma was also adopted.

An Ophthalmic Institution in connection with the Aberdeen Infirmary has been started in a separate building in King Street. It contains eight beds and is in charge of a fully-qualified Sister, with assistants. There is also a large out-patient department.

The Bridgwater Infirmary, in presenting its eighty-second Annual Report, records its usual good work, efficiently carried out by the Committee and the medical and Nursing staffs—the latter under Mrs. Okell, the Matron, whose power of organisation is so good and whose enthusiasm in her work seems to increase from year to year.

The Metropolitan Asylums Board are scarcely in smooth water yet. They met on Saturday to receive a sounding snub from the Local Government Board for spending money largely in excess of sanctioned estimates, to dismiss their somewhat eccentric chaplain and to appoint a Committee to look into the prices that have been paid for Hospital sites. Seeing that the Metropolitan Board is run pretty much by the Local Government Board, the notion of one Body reprimanding the other seems a little funny.

The annual entertainment to patients and friends took place on Saturday evening at the St. John's Hospital for Skin Diseases, which was very enjoyable. The Hospital has just acquired a long lease of Arlington House, Uxbridge Road, for the extension of the in-patient department. This will give accommodation for fifty additional beds.

The buildings which will increase by eighty beds the accommodation at the West London Hospital are nearly finished, and the Managers hope to open them in the present year. About £16,000 is still required to defray their cost and for furnishing, and contributions to the funds for this purpose are urgently needed.

The final stage in the arrangements for the transfer of the Monsall Fever Hospital and estate to the Corporation of Manchester, so far as the Infirmary authorities are concerned, has been reached, and all that now remains is for the Corporation to give its formal approval to the agreement, and for Parliament to ratify the same.

On Monday last the departure platform of the South Eastern Railway at Cannon Street presented an unusual sight. No less than 108 crippled or sick children were there under the charge of a number of Nurses, starting for a fortnight's holiday at the Beach Rocks Convalescent Home at Sandgate. The Rev. A. Styleman Herring, vicar of Clerkenwell, in concert with several friends of the distressed, raised the fund necessary for the change, which was anticipated with much pleasure by the children, who appeared to be in high spirits as their train steamed out of the station.

The great International Bazaar now being held at St. Petersburg with the object of founding a Convalescent Home for persons of all nationalities, is proving a brilliant success both socially and financially, and is visited by thousands of people daily.

One of the aims of the Home of St. Barnabas, which was opened some months ago at East Grinstead, was to provide a home for missionaries who are invalided home, where they are nursed back to health, and to provide a Home of Rest for the clergy who have broken down through overwork.

The Sussex County Hospital is appealing for £25,000 for carrying out some important improvements, including a Home for the Nurses within the Hospital grounds. They are now housed away from the Hospital in a private house. A new Out-Patient Department is also badly needed, as well as Sanitary Towers—in which lavatories, &c., may be separated by cross ventilation from the wards.

The Lambeth Water Company has been inquiring of several South London vestries whether they would be prepared to assist the Company in supplying householders with water by means of water-carts in the event of a severe frost, and asking, as well, what the charge would be per cart per day. In each case, the Water Company has been informed that the vestry is prepared so to assist them. The proposed charge per cart per day, including the horse and two men, varies from 17s. 6d. to 21s.

The Medical Staff of the French Army Corps are actively engaged in finding out the best methods of using electric lights on battle-fields for the better assistance of the wounded and dying. The posts with electric lamps are considered impracticable, although when they can be hastily put up, or on level plains they may be used. The latest suggestion is to adopt the toy incandescent, used in ballets. It is proposed to place them in the middle of the Geneva Cross badge. The wounded would thus be able to know surgeons, Sisters of Charity, or bearers.

A very striking return has been presented by M. Monod, the Officer of Health to the French Home Office, giving the number of deaths from diphtheria in the 108 large towns (with over 20,000 inhabitants) of France in the first six months of 1894 and 1895—that is to say, before and after the process of vaccination with serum had been commenced. The returns not only denote a very great diminution, but one that is constantly progressing, from 56 per cent. in January to 74 per cent. in June. The returns for the last six months of this and last year are likely, therefore, to be still more satisfactory. The number of deaths from diphtheria in these 108 towns in the first six months of 1894 was 2,626, and in the same period this year 904.

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