

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



OWING to the increasing number of cases of fistula, St. Mark's Hospital in the City Road, which is the only one in London set apart entirely for this kind of disease, has been considerably enlarged and improved. The new buildings are situated at the back of the Hospital, but are approached by a separate entrance from the main road, and have a separate exit. They contain a waiting, surgeons', and examining rooms, an operating theatre, dispensary and drug store, several wards, and other rooms and offices. The whole of the new buildings are erected in a thoroughly substantial manner, and everything is up-to-date. The floors are fireproof, and the sanitary fittings are of a very perfect and elaborate kind, specially adapted to the requirements of the diseases treated at the Hospital. The old buildings have been converted and remodelled, and brought more into harmony with modern ideas of hospital requirements.

The forty-fourth Annual General Court of the Governors of the Hospital for Sick Children was held in the Board-Room of the Hospital, Great Ormond Street, on Friday, Viscount Gort presiding. In the report the Committee drew attention to the very serious falling off in the annual income, and urged upon all the friends of the hospital the necessity for procuring new annual subscribers. While in 1894 the subscriptions amounted to £3,122, in 1895 they were only £2,858. In 1894 the donations were £5,681, and in 1895 they had fallen to £4,098. Thanks were given to the friends of the late Mr. Corney Grain, who subscribed for the endowment of a cot, to perpetuate his memory. A portion of the fund so collected was to be invested in the names of trustees, as the Corney Grain Christmas Toy Fund, and the income applied to the purchase of toys for the children. The Committee also expressed their gratitude to Captain C. G. Robinson, R.N., and the officers and men of Her Majesty's ship "Vulcan," together with their chaplain (Rev. H. Macdonald), for subscribing to establish H.M.S. "Vulcan" Cot.

The Governors of the Bedford Infirmary yesterday adopted designs for the new County Hospital to be built at Bedford at an estimated cost of £26,300. Towards the cost of the new building £23,000 has already been collected. The Duke of Bedford and Mr. Whitbread have given £5,000 each.

The 24th annual collection of the Council of the Metropolitan Hospital Sunday Fund, in aid of the medical Charities, will be made in the various Churches and Chapels of London on Sunday, the 14th inst. Special sermons in most cases will be preached on the occasion. The Lord Mayor, as President of the Fund, has intimated that persons unable to make their contributions on the day may forward the same to the Mansion House.

The annual Hospital Saturday collections in Birmingham promise to surpass those of any previous year. The receipts, including factory contributions and street collections, reported up to last night exceed £12,000, as against £9,500 at the corresponding period last year. Improved trade and increased wages, more particularly in connection with the cycle machinery and cycle tube industries, are largely responsible for this result.

The Guy's Hospital Appeal.

THE magnificent reception held in support of Guy's Hospital by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales at the Imperial Institute on Wednesday evening, and at which he announced that "the money already subscribed, and which is large enough to make this evening for ever memorable in the annals of charity dinners, amounts to £151,000, which, capitalized, would bring in an increased annual income of £5,000. The donations are upwards of £100,000, Mr. Gladstone's fund £16,000, and Mr. Ingleden has left £35,000."

With deep regret the Governors have now to make known that the means which have enabled this great charity to be carried on in the past are reduced by one-half. Under the will of the founder the endowment was compulsorily invested in landed estate, and the depreciation which the changes of time and policy have wrought in the value of this endowment can best be seen by a reference to the above figures.

There is a wide-spread idea in the public mind that Guy's still has wealth sufficient to its requirements, and is therefore in no need of help from the benevolent. It is inconceivable, however, that, when the real circumstances are made known, the charitably-disposed will withhold the support required for the full maintenance of so indispensable an Institution, which is at once the greatest centre for the relief of human suffering, and the truest citadel of social order in South East London.

What is required to meet present necessities is either a re-endowment of the Hospital to the amount of at least half a million sterling, or an annual income of not less than £20,000, to be raised by subscriptions, donations, and legacies. Failing such substantial support, the Governors will be reluctantly compelled to curtail expenses by a still larger closure of wards. Already one hundred beds, thoroughly equipped in other respects, are, and have been since 1880, closed for want of money to provide the necessary maintenance and Nursing attendance, though every day thoroughly deserving cases relievable by Hospital treatment have to be refused admission. If we take into consideration the fact that the average stay of an in-patient in the Hospital is about twenty-five days, it follows that between fourteen and fifteen hundred persons have annually been deprived of the benefits which admission to these beds would have conferred upon them. The loss which the poor thus sustain is sufficiently obvious to be recognised by all, nor must it be forgotten that this curtailment of Hospital accommodation brings with it a corresponding diminution in the supply of well-trained Nurses and doctors for the service of the public; so that in helping Guy's the public help themselves.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)