

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE and the Duke and Duchess of Teck have promised to be present at the opening of the Princess Mary Ward of the Royal Hospital at Richmond by the Duchess of York on July 8th.

Her Royal Highness Princess Mary Adelaide, Duchess of Teck, on Saturday opened a bazaar at Clarence House, Roehampton, in aid of the funds of the Princess Mary Adelaide Home for Befriending Young Servants. The Duchess of Teck, in declaring the bazaar open, stated that she was very pleased to help forward so excellent a work as the training of young girls to be good servants. Her Royal Highness afterwards made an inspection of the stalls, and presented a number of certificates to the pupils of Clarence House for their efficiency in the St. John Ambulance examinations.

The Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava will open a Garden Fête and Café-chantant at Kidbrook Lodge, St. German's Place, Blackheath, on July 2nd, in aid of the Countess of Dufferin's fund for supplying medical relief to the women of India. If the weather should prove unfavourable, the fête will be held on the following day.

At the ordinary fortnightly meeting of the Metropolitan Asylums Board it was decided to erect an ambulance station at the North Western Hospital, and to purchase, for a sum not exceeding £54,000, the plot of land facing the Victoria Embankment, at the corner of Temple Avenue, for new offices for the use of the Asylums Board.

The 3rd Annual Demonstration and Church Parade of the South-east London Friendly Trade and Temperance Societies, in aid of St. Thomas's Hospital was held on Sunday last. A procession, headed by bands and banners, marched through the principal streets of the district, collecting *en route*.

Dr. W. J. Collins, M.S., B.Sc. (Lond.), F.R.C.S., has been elected full surgeon to the Royal Eye Hospital at Southwark.

The trustees of Smith's Charity have granted £100 to the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital.

On Saturday Mr. Passmore Edwards visited Tilbury and opened the Cottage Hospital which has been built by him. It is a pretty and tasteful building, faced with red brick and Bath stone dressing, will accommodate eight beds, and will be a great boon to the neighbourhood, where distressing accidents often take place.

The Princess of Wales, accompanied by the Princesses Victoria and Maud of Wales, paid a visit to St. Mary's Hospital on Tuesday. The Princess was received by Sir William Broadbent, and conducted by him over the Hospital, which was crowded with patients, especially in the children's wards. In the first ward, Lady Broadbent, the Matron (Miss Medill), and the secretary (Mr. Thomas Ryan), had the honour of

being presented to her Royal Highness. The Princess visited all the wards, and, to the great delight of the patients, spoke to every one, the visit lasting nearly an hour and a half. Owing to a falling-off, during recent years, in its income from legacies, the hospital is at present in great need of funds for current expenses and the Building Fund.

We have frequently commented on the useful work accomplished by the After Care Association for the assistance of poor persons discharged from asylums for the insane. The Report for 1895 shows that, during the year, 121 cases have come before the Committee in 1894. Of these 99 were women and 22 men. Cases have been assisted, as in the past, by being boarded out in cottages in the country, grants of money, clothing, by finding occupation, and in other ways as the Committee have thought best. Some few cases have had to be declined, as it was thought, after most careful consideration, that they would never be fit for the struggle of life again. This Association covers ground that no other Society touches, and it is work in which most humane people must sympathise, because of the utter helplessness of those for whose benefit the Association exists.

Dr. Knowsley Sibley writes to the *Saturday Review* on the subject of Hospital Sunday and Hospital Management, in which he says:—

"In the issue of June 13th there appears an article under the above heading, and as it quotes from my recent pamphlet on this subject, I venture to send you a few lines on the question.

Your article clearly shows that it is quite time something was attempted to arrest the present deplorable condition into which our Hospitals are drifting. Everyone, with the exception of the secretaries and a few other well-paid interested lay officials, admits the unfortunate and chaotic state of affairs. The remedy is not far to seek. The public is tired of the everlasting special appeal for funds, and the oft-repeated 'Hospital Scandals,' and the Hospitals must now be rescued from the hands of competing groups of irresponsible individuals, and placed under the proper control of a central and responsible body. This appears to be the only way to bring about any change for the better. Hospital Committees are much too self-righteous to reform from within: it must be forced upon them from without.

With regard to a Central Board, a Board with no power but one of moral persuasion—in fact, a sort of educational body, as suggested by the Charity Organization Society—will be useless, and, like the Consulting Staff of a Hospital, will never be consulted. A Central Board, to be of use, must have power—either legal, by an Act of Parliament, or financial. If it has power to influence the funds connected with the Hospitals, which refuse to adopt its recommendations, then it may be of immense value. Without either legal or financial powers its existence will simply be ignored, and it will spend a large amount of labour in vain.

To sum up the whole question, Parliamentary action in some form or other appears to be the only efficient means of coping with the difficulty: all other remedies can be but temporary.

Few would question the liability of the State for the care of its sick; and, from an economical standpoint, there can be no doubt that, after allowing for all organization expenses, there would be an immense saving."

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