

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE PRINCE OF WALES will visit Brighton on February 15th, for the purpose of laying the foundation stone of the new wing about to be added to the Sussex County Hospital, towards the expenses of which funds are urgently needed.

The Attorney-General has consented to preside at a festival dinner in aid of the funds of the Royal National Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest, at the Whitehall Rooms, Hotel Métropole, on Wednesday, April 29th.

The annual dinner of the Royal Hospital for Incurables, West Hill, Putney Heath, will be held under the presidency of the treasurer, Mr. Herbert John Allcroft, at the Hotel Métropole, on Tuesday, May 19th.

The appointment of Scientific Adviser to the Trinity House, which has been in abeyance since the resignation of Professor Tyndall, and which was formerly held by Professor Faraday, has been revived, and has been accepted by Lord Rayleigh.

An anonymous donor has given £1,000 to the Jessop Hospital for Women, at Sheffield. The late Mr. Richard Holtby, of Nafferton, has bequeathed £1,000 to the Great Driffeld Cottage Hospital, and £500 each to the Church Missionary and British and Foreign Bible Societies.

The Salvation Army "Shelter," the "Métropole," in the Edgware Road district, seems to be admirably adapted for its purpose. The rooms are lofty and well-ventilated. The beds, except perhaps in the 2d. department, which is gruesomely suggestive of a coffin warehouse, are not unduly crowded, and ample provision is made for washing. The 6d. and 4d. beds (including food) are almost luxurious, and if it is not sought to crowd into this shelter more than the 700 for whom it provides fairly good accommodation, the Métropole will escape the condemnation to which some other of the twenty-one shelters under their management lay themselves open.

A successful performance of "Rumpelstiltskin" was given on Tuesday evening at the Brompton Hospital by the St. Mark's College Chapel choirboys (past and present), under the direction of Mr. Owen Breden, who has for many years past provided a similar entertainment.

The Royal Albert Orphan Asylum at Bagshot is in need of contributions and annual subscribers. It was established to receive children who are too friendless and destitute to compete with candidates of Orphan Asylums—where canvassing for votes at elections is allowed—which entails influence and expenditure. The boys are taught trades, while the girls are trained

as useful servants, and are instructed in housework, cooking, sewing, &c. The Asylum maintains and trains 200 children, the number of boys and girls being about equal. Over 1,300 children have entered the Asylum since its foundation, and the work is done admirably.

The annual meeting of the After-Care Association for the relief of poor persons discharged recovered from Insane Asylums was held last week at Aubrey House, Kensington, W., by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander. The chair was taken by the Rev. and Hon. E. C. Glyn, and several speakers eloquently pleaded on behalf of this valuable Association, which accomplishes so much good work among unfortunate persons who would otherwise be much neglected.

The *Lancet* publishes this letter, which was sent to a medical man, and which, printed as it was written, omitting only the name and address, would be hard to beat:—

Dear Dr. —, —I would be very pleased if you would let me have a Baby for one guinea. We want it on the 4th of Febry for Mother's birthday. We would like it fat and Bonny, with blue eyes and fair hair. We Children are going to give it to her ourselves please answer at once.—Yours sincerely,
ARCHIE —.

P.S.—Which would be cheaper a Boy or a Girl?

It is the practice in many public schools to collect at the end of each day the lead pencils, penholders and pens that have been used. The next day and the day after they are again distributed indiscriminately without any cleansing, and with the consequent danger of infection. Medical men urge that these pencils and the pens be made the individual property of the pupil as a precaution against the spread of contagious diseases, and that slates and sponges be altogether done away with. Parents who cover their children's school books to keep them clean are advised to use only stiff glazed brown paper, which can frequently be removed for a fresh covering, instead of "textile" fabrics of cloth or muslin.

That was a lucky prisoner who was recently released from the County Jail in Chicago by Judge Tuley, who gave the man his freedom on the ground that "the prison was unhealthy, overcrowded and generally unfit for human occupation." But how about the slums of Chicago, where thousands of honest hard-working men and women have to live year in and year out? Why does not someone compass *their* release?

We noticed lately in the Report of a country Hospital, under the heading of Donations, a curious item thus: "Mr. George W—, fine received by him from two boys for trespass." It seems an admirable idea to levy a tax for trespass and devote the amount to a Hospital. In the same list we notice that some poachers who were convicted of trespass in pursuit of game or rabbits on the land of a local squire were fined £2, and this sum also went to swell the coffers of the same excellent Institution. A fine may be regarded more or less as a "windfall" to a landowner, and in presenting it to a Hospital, he does so without any diminution in his average income.

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