

**Reflections**

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE grand Imperial fête and fancy fair, which is being organized under Royal approval and patronage, in aid of the funds of the Victoria Hospital for Children, has been fixed to take place in the Royal Botanic Society's Gardens, Regent's Park, on June 20, 21, 22, and 23, 1897.

The Executive of the Worcester Infirmary have resolved to provide fitting accommodation for their Nurses by building a Nurses' Home, and some £4,000 is already guaranteed for that object.

On September 2nd, Earl Cadogan, the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, will open a Bazaar at Cork, in aid of the "Women and Children's Hospital," in that city. No doubt our friend "Leo" will be a prominent member of the Reception Committee.

The new accident ward of the Merthyr Hospital is now complete, towards the expenses of which Sir W. T. Lewis has recently given £1,000, and is about to be furnished. A very favourable report of the Hospital was given last week at the half-yearly meeting.

During the four years the Woman's Convalescent Home, Southend, has been established it has received 1,300 women and girls, who have thereby obtained rest and change at the seaside. A subscription of one guinea entitles to free admission for two weeks, and one of half a guinea to admission for the same period upon payment of 5s. per week towards maintenance. Miss Alice Denning, 27, Onslow Square, S.W., is the treasurer.

Through the enthusiastic enterprise of Mr. Alderman Alexander, a new Isolation Hospital has been contributed for and built at Malmesbury, capable of holding twenty beds. A case of small-pox occurring in the locality made the authorities realise that, without an Isolation Hospital, it would be impossible to prevent the spread of infectious disease if brought amongst them.

There appears to be a unanimity of opinion on the part of the leading Metropolitan Boards of Guardians that Workhouse inmates shall not be allowed to contract marriages in order to qualify themselves for apartments reserved for married couples. The Hampstead Guardians sent out a circular letter to many other Boards, asking them to co-operate so as to induce the Government to so amend the law as to prevent those designing workhouse nuptials.

At the last meeting of the Newcastle Board of Guardians the project of increasing the Nursing Staff of the Infirmary was considered, some of the members regarding the matter from the ratepayers' point of view, others from that of the patients. Sir B. C. Browne held that the value of a Hospital depended on the efficiency of its Nursing Staff. Where they made a Hospital economical was in curing the in-

mates without delay. Owing to their short staff they had sometimes had to supplement the work of Nursing by pauper labour. This he strongly objected to. If there were any paupers there who were efficient as Nurses, why were they in the Workhouse at all? The Chairman considered that the arguments in favour of an increase of the staff had been of the most flimsy character. Institutions of this class in the country were growing into huge concerns for the benefit of officials. During the last eight years the attendants in the Newcastle Workhouse had about doubled, and there were no more inmates. Finally, it was agreed to retain the present staff of Nurses and to increase the number of Probationers.

St. George's Hospital has received a contribution of £500 from Baroness Hirsch, who has also sent a donation of £200 to the London Lock Hospital and Rescue Home, and £500 to St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington.

The Camberwell Nursing Association, of which Miss Bradgate is Superintendent, states in its sixth annual report that the work has increased, and that the cases nursed have been more severe in character, and have come to a greater extent than formerly from the class for which these Institutions are intended, that is, the really poor and neglected. The staff consists of the Superintendent, three Queen's Nurses, and two Probationers. An arrangement has been made with the Brixton and Herne Hill dispensary, by which a Nurse attends on certain days of the week at the dispensary and gives her services in cases where they may be required by the doctors in attendance.

The Baroness de Hirsch has sent a donation of £1,000 to the North-west London Hospital, Kentish Town Road.

The Lytham Cottage Hospital last week held a garden party in its grounds in order to make known more widely the advantages connected with the Home. We trust it will have that effect, for, to judge from press reports, the Hospital must be a paradise for the sick of the Lancashire towns. It is a pleasure to read as follows:—"Lytham Cottage Hospital is beautifully situated. The building itself is of an Oriental style, almost resembling an Indian bungalow. Its low gables and chimneys are well hidden within a plot of fine trees. The enclosure is prolific with plant and floral life, and nearly always fresh and cool. Standing as the structure does, near the last bend of the Ribble, not only can Southport be seen smiling across the extensive mouth of the river, but even the blue hills of Wales may be frequently discerned. The sight varies—occasionally being far more charming than at other times. The sea scene and the sight of the sands are always refreshing. Of the interior, the rooms are not overcrowded with beds, nor are they wanting in pleasant pictures, readable books and periodicals, religious scenes and literature predominating. Fragrant flowers scent the wards and passages, and musical instruments and folios are none too scant. Beauty and utility are exquisitely combined in the back and front gardens, the one being attractive in showy products, whilst the other brings forth abundance of vegetable produce for the physical needs of the inmates. The Home, for skill, attendance, and agreeable surroundings, is one of the best of its kind in the country."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)