

## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA has given a donation of £100 to the Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen.

The Prince of Wales has forwarded a donation of 25 guineas to Dr. Barnado's Homes for Orphan Waifs in aid of the special reserve and foundation fund now being raised for the purpose of extinguishing the liabilities incurred in the erection of the buildings.

There has been quite a little flutter in secretarial dovecotes concerning the appointment of Mrs. Cope to the position of Secretary to the Royal Eye Hospital, Southwark, and our contemporary, the *Charity Record*—which is a very good friend to Hospital secretaries—has quite a sheaf of remarks on the subject in last week's issue.

Says the *C. R.* (its own pet name):—"Is it true that Hospital secretaries are 'coming out' on strike?—No; but some woke up with a start on hearing of Mrs. Cope's appointment, and one was heard to exclaim: 'I wonder how the lady will manage the next festival?'"

Also the *C. R.* remarks: "Mrs. J. E. Cope's appointment as Secretary of the Royal Eye Hospital is a very new departure, and I should like to hear the observations of the old secretaries when they learn of the step taken by the Committee at this great South London Charity.

We are of opinion that this new departure on the part of the Committee is eminently just, and no doubt we shall have women coming forward in the future to compete for these desirable appointments. We would express the hope, however, that they will thoroughly qualify themselves for the positions for which they apply, as from personal experience we know that women absolutely ignorant of secretarial duties and the management of public business have applied for, and been appointed as, Secretaries to associations of women—to the terrible disadvantage of such Societies.

In Mrs. Cope, future applicants to official honours have an excellent example, as we know, from personal experience of her work in connection with the Chicago Exhibition in 1893, that she is a highly-educated woman, being an excellent linguist, a good public speaker, with a talent for journalism, and a first-class woman of business. How many of her competitors for the position she has gained could prove he possessed the same qualifications?

At the various Medical Schools the usual opening Addresses to the students were of a somewhat less conventional type this year than usual, and many interesting "side issues" of medicine and surgery were entered into.

Dr. Morton Smale, at St. Mary's Hospital, dealt with the subject of patent medicines. He said every advanced medical practitioner knew the difficulties attending diagnosis and prognosis, yet to the amateur medicine prescriber a cough to him was a cough and nothing more. Might not the serious and increasing calls made upon the resources of abdominal surgery, and numerous intestinal troubles requiring medical treatment, be in some measure due to the prevailing fashion of saline drenching so continually resorted to by self-constituted doctors for the sake of the immediate and transitory relief which they afforded? The amount of money spent on stamped medicines bought and used by the public—in the majority of cases for they know not what—amounted to something like £2,500,000 per annum; spent by the intelligent British public.

The London School of Medicine for Women made a new departure this session, its opening Address being delivered by Mr. A. B. Barrow, at the Royal Free Hospital, instead of at the premises in Handel Street. He congratulated the students upon having given up the idea that it was an undignified thing for a woman to work, and especially upon their joining the medical profession, a calling of the highest and most responsible character. He thought they were fortunate in joining at the present time, when a doctor was no longer spoken of as a necessary evil.

At St. George's Hospital, Mr. Adams Frost touched upon medical ethics. He said, "A high standard of honesty carried into our relations with each other is but another name for medical etiquette—a subject of much mystification to the public, and of much heart-burning to ourselves, yet it is simple enough: if men would only follow the old rule 'Do as you would be done by.' Your shifty man in general practice has a measure of success, or what he calls success. If he is not busy, he at any rate pretends to be, and the pretence pleases him, and probably leads to business. The methods of Bob Sawyer to obtain a practice are antiquated, but the principles on which they rested survive. Green spectacles are no longer considered a sign of learning; their place is taken by a stylish brougham and a fast horse. Our modern Sawyer, late Knockemoff, knows better than to be called out of church; he is too busy to go to church."

On Sunday morning, the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, Aldermen, and other civic authorities attended the Harvest Thanksgiving Services at St. Peter's-upon-Cornhill. The sermon was preached by Canon M'Cormick, Chaplain-in-Ordinary to the Queen. The offertories are to be sent to the London Ophthalmic Hospital.

The Monkwearmouth and Southwick Hospital is so useful an Institution that it is shortly to be enlarged. When the large extension in course of construction is finished, the total accommodation will amount to 40 beds, which is an increase of 24. More funds are asked for, and badly needed, to carry on so much super-added work. The Hospital is very popular with the working classes, which is, perhaps, one of the very best tributes to its excellence; and working-men representatives are very diligent in their attendances at the Committee meetings, and are the principal subscribers.

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