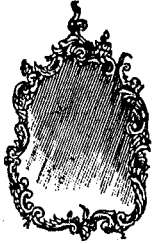


Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



SURGEON-MAJOR SIR GEORGE S. ROBERTSON, K.C.S.I., has accepted an invitation to a complimentary dinner to be given to him by his old fellow students and the members of the staff of the Westminster Hospital and Medical School, at Limmer's Hotel, on Friday, the 27th inst.

The Annual Ball in aid of the funds of the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, will take place at the Holborn Town Hall on Wednesday, December 2nd. The arrangements are again being carried out by residents in the immediate district of the Hospital. Tickets for the ball may be obtained of the Hon. Secretaries, 299, Gray's Inn Road.

The Invalid Children's Aid Association, which has for upwards of nine years worked assiduously and earnestly among invalid children of the poorest class in their own homes, is pleading for more subscriptions to meet the increased demand on their resources which winter always brings.

At the discussion by the various Committees of the Hospital Saturday Fund, held last Saturday night, as to whether or no street collections should be abandoned, a very long sitting ensued. Mr. Acland spoke strongly in favour of the abolition of the ladies' street collections. But an amendment was carried in favour of raising the tone of the street collections, rather than of abandoning them.

The workmen of Messrs. Robson & Sons, of Newcastle, recently held a meeting to consider the question of the new Infirmary Building Fund, and passed the following generous resolution:—"That we subscribe twopence per week each for the next twelve months—one penny to go to the Building Fund and one penny to the Hospital Saturday Fund, and a penny per week to be continued after the twelve months are over to the latter fund."

With reference to the Lord Mayor's proposal to raise a national subscription for freeing the public Hospitals from debt, the *Citizen* is informed that immediately upon the publication of the proposal urgent representations were made to his lordship as to the inexpediency of the scheme. He has decided, therefore, after full consideration, to abandon the scheme, and to lend the weight of his influence to a cognate work of equal public importance—viz., a national fund for increasing in magnitude and endowing in perpetuity Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, founded by Her Majesty for the purpose of nursing the poor in their own homes.

Mr. Bancroft has been invited by the Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University to read Dickens's Christmas Carol in the "New Schools," on December 1st, in aid of the Radcliffe Infirmary; and has also accepted an invitation from the President to give the reading before the Union Society of Cambridge University on November 20th.

The New Journalism.

"FULLY AND FAIRLY REPORTED."

THE following letter has been sent by Messrs. Mear and Fowler to Mr. H. C. Burdett, the editor of the *Hospital*, concerning the report which appeared in the issue of that journal of the 24th of October, of the October Meeting of the General Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association. That report detailed the lengthy defence made by Sir James Crichton-Browne concerning his conduct as Vice-Chairman of the Association, coupled with a personal attack upon Dr. Bedford Fenwick and other members of the Association who have had the courage to oppose the irregular conduct of the Hon. Officers of the Association. Although dated 31st of October, the letter did not appear in the *Hospital* until the issue of the 14th November, and then, we understand, only after two other letters requiring that it should be inserted had been sent by Messrs. Mear and Fowler:—

"To the Editor of 'The Hospital.'"

Sir,—We have been consulted by Dr. Bedford Fenwick concerning the publication, in your paper of October 24th, of what purports to be a detailed report of the General Council Meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association, held on October 16th, 1896.

That report is, we are informed, in various particulars, most inaccurate and misleading. We desire to draw your attention to that part of the report according to which Sir James Crichton-Browne made the following assertion (p. 36): 'And, in connection with finance, there was one statement made by Dr. Bedford Fenwick on oath which I should be glad to hear him justify. He said the Association is now £800 in debt.' We are informed that when, at the meeting in question, Sir James Crichton-Browne made that statement, in somewhat different words to those reported by you, Dr. Bedford Fenwick immediately refuted it, and that Sir James Crichton-Browne at once withdrew and apologised for the assertion. Yet your report publishes that statement while it suppresses the facts of its refutation and of its withdrawal.

Your report omits to mention the formal protest immediately entered by Dr. Fenwick against being deprived of his undoubted right to defend himself against the lengthy attack which was made upon him by Sir James Crichton-Browne.

Your report also omits the simple explanation given at once by Dr. Bedford Fenwick to Princess Christian's question respecting the nomination of the honorary officers, and thus leaves it to be inferred that Dr. Fenwick was in some way at fault in not correcting the mistake or oversight of the officials.

Your report further omits to mention the facts that the irregular resolution re-electing Sir James Crichton Browne and the other honorary officers was put to the meeting and passed; that Dr. Fenwick entered at once a formal protest against this infringement of the Charter; and that special meetings of the Executive Committee and of the General Council were hurriedly convened, and met on October 23rd to correct the irregularity.

The misleading character of the report to which you have given publicity is therefore so evident that, on

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