

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



It is rumoured that £120,000 has been given, as a memorial of the Queen's reign, for the purpose of building and endowing a new wing for University College Hospital. We hope the report may be true, and that the annual dinner next week may also bring in a substantial addition to the funds. We are aware, however, that the minds of many are prejudiced against this institution because they believe it to be a hotbed of vivisection, and that the Anti-vivisection Societies strongly disapprove of it. We think, therefore, that it would be well if the opportunity afforded by the coming dinner were used, and the minds of the public disabused upon this subject.

The Mayor of Leicester has opened a fund for the purpose of endowing the local infirmary with £10,000 in commemoration of the sixtieth year of the Queen's reign. Three thousand pounds have already been promised.

It is proposed in connection with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee to re-build the Royal Portsmouth Hospital, the foundation stone of which was laid by the late Prince Consort fifty years ago. It is proposed to erect a new building on the present central site, which is leased from the Crown for 1,000 years, and to commence with a new block of sixty beds for male patients, at a cost of £10,000.

By command of H.R.H. the Princess of Wales, the sum of £3 7s. 1d. has been forwarded to the British Home for Incurables, Crown Lane, Streatham, being a further portion of part proceeds of the sale of Canon Fleming's sermon, "Recognition in Eternity."

An operating ophthalmic theatre, constructed entirely of glass, is in process of erection at King's College Hospital. We hope to give a full description of this "new" theatre when it is finished.

The progress of Sanitation, which is such a feature of the age, has not unnaturally led to proposals connected with a more sanitary method of burial, as well as more healthy arrangements for the living. A Sanitary Burial Association, under distinguished patronage, has been formed in order to draw attention to the need for greater care being taken in the form and material of coffins. The Association suggests that Gooding's patented coffin should be employed, the principle of which is that the inside of the ordinary wooden shell is lined with a powerful disinfectant and deodorant, which effectually destroys all germs of disease, and thus prevents the possibility of infection of the living. There seems to be good reason to believe, from the tests already applied to this process, that it fully effects the objects for which it is designed, and we would therefore recommend those of our readers who are consulted on the subject to refer to the Sanitary Burial Association, Limited, 96, Charing Cross Road, W.C.

Reports of Meetings.

THE ASSOCIATION OF ASYLUM WORKERS.

THE annual meeting of the Association of Asylum Workers was held on Monday last at 12, Buckingham Street, Strand. The Association is a comparatively new one, having only held its inaugural meeting on July 18th, 1895. Its first President was Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson, who in his address at this meeting stated that the objects of the Association were as follows :—

- (1) To improve generally the status of asylum nurses and attendants.
- (2) To secure the sympathy and co-operation of all those interested in institutional work and efforts.
- (3) To provide a "Home of Rest and Nursing" for those engaged in Asylum work—no such home being in existence.

The objects of the Association appear to us excellent, and it has our best wishes for its success.

The chair on Monday was taken by Mr. P. Michelli, secretary of the Seamen's Hospital.

The business of the meeting was for the most part purely formal: the report and financial statements, as printed in *Asylum News*, were adopted, and it was decided that the office of President be left vacant, with a view to securing a Royal President when there was a favourable opportunity.

The nomination of Dr. Shuttleworth, of Ancaster House, Richmond, as Hon. Secretary to the Association, was confirmed, the Executive Committee were appointed, and were requested to press forward the institution of the proposed Home of Rest.

The only resolution which caused any discussion was the last, which was proposed by Miss Honnor Morten. The resolution stood—

"That, in future lists of members, an indication of the examinations they have passed be printed opposite their names." Miss Morten thought that many asylum workers had not passed any examinations, and asked leave to delete the words referring to the examinations and to insert "such qualifications held" in their place. The Hon. Secretary, however, pointed out that this was out of order, as notice of amendment should have been given, and the Chairman concurring, the resolution was put to the meeting and passed as it originally stood. Some discussion ensued as to the advisability of deferring the publication of the list of members, but the newly-appointed Hon. Secretary pointed out that he hoped to be a constitutional secretary, that they were bound by their constitution to publish a list of members, and there should be no lapse in fulfilling their obligations. There was no option, it was their duty to do it. We think that the Association is to be congratulated on possessing a secretary who is determined to do his duty, and uphold the constitution of his Association. Finally it was decided "That the Executive Committee be requested to press forward the printing of the list of members, according to Rule III. of the Constitution."

The meeting then closed.

We have received a copy of the first number of *The Asylum News*, and we are entirely in sympathy with the Rev. Henry Hawkins, Chaplain of the Lon-

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