

The Hospital World.

SURGERY SYSTEMS.

At the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, the out-patient department is under the care of two sisters, one on the north and the other on the south side. On the north side there is a sister (who has been there for many years), with a probationer working under her. This sister manages the Samaritan Fund of the hospital. On the south side, which is the busier one of the two, there are two nurses working under the sister. This sister also supervises the surgery and receiving room. A staff nurse and a probationer are allotted to the latter department, but the probationer usually works in the out-patient rooms until twelve o'clock, as all the casualty cases are seen there up to that time.

There is a small theatre in connection with the out-patient department, and sometimes as many as twenty operations are performed in an afternoon. Also many cases in plaster of Paris are taken down and put up again, and this is often left to the nurses to do. There are no beds in the surgery, and cases are admitted immediately to the wards, unless discharged or treated as out-patients. They are seen first of all by either the house physician or house surgeon, but all cases are referred to the resident medical officer for admission. There are rooms in which infectious cases can be at once isolated. It is the custom of this hospital for all the children to be washed by the casualty nurses before being sent on to the wards. There is a bath-room in connection with the receiving-room, and hot and cold water are laid on. The nurses evidently take a pride in keeping this up to a high standard of cleanliness, and the brasses glisten like gold. When a child is washed, a message to that effect, sent through the telephone, brings down a nurse from the ward to which it is to be admitted, with a blanket in which to wrap it, and she carries it up to the ward. So far as I am aware this is the only hospital, with the exception of those under the control of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, where the patients are washed before being admitted to the wards, but the custom is certainly one which all nurses in charge of wards would welcome, and if it be found that the washing process can be carried out in the out-patient department without any risk of chill to the patients, the custom will probably be more largely adopted in the future than is the case at present. In these days of strict antiseptic precautions, it seems somewhat inconsistent to introduce into a surgical ward a patient whose person is grimed with the dirt of ages, and whose clothes may very possibly be a medium of conveying infectious disease, to say nothing of specimens of the *pulex irritans* and kindred species, even more undesirable, to the ward.

M. B.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



IT is proposed to establish a Central Nurses' Home in connection with the Manchester and Salford Sick Poor and Private Nursing Institution, as a memorial of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

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At the festival dinner recently given in aid of the funds of University College Hospital, the Secretary (Mr. N. H. Nixon) announced a "record" list of subscriptions, amounting to £5,000. We congratulate the hospital which, as we announced last week is much in need of money, upon this addition to its funds.

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Mr. James Chadburn of Sutton, Surrey, has generously offered to give £5,000 towards endowing ten beds for cancer cases at the New Hospital for Women in the Euston Road, provided that the public will raise a like sum within the present year. The Hospital possesses both the ground and the necessary funds for building a ward, and the sum of £10,000 will endow ten beds. It is therefore much to be hoped that Mr. Chadburn's offer may meet with a liberal response.

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A skating fête, under the patronage of H.R.H. Princess Mary Adelaide, Duchess of Teck, was held on Wednesday evening, at the Prince's Skating Club, Knightsbridge, in aid of the building fund of the London Homœopathic Hospital. We hope that a substantial sum may be handed over by the organising committee to the funds of this excellent institution.

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The new wards of the Leyton, Walthamstow, and Wanstead Children's and General Hospital, were recently opened by H.R.H. the Duchess of Teck. Her Royal Highness was received at the hospital by the Ladies' Committee, and was conducted round the wards by Miss Clarissa Hunter, the matron, under whose able superintendence the nursing of the hospital has attained its present standard of efficiency. Her Royal Highness, who showed great interest in the institution, said, in declaring the wards open, that it gave her much pleasure to allow one of the wards to be named after herself. A collection made at the time amounted to £126 10s., and various donations were announced, the list being headed with a cheque for £1,000 from the President of the hospital, Mr. Courtenay Warner, M.P., and another from Mr. J. Gurney Barclay for £250.

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Mr. J. H. Rutherglen, clerk to the Kensington Guardians, is to be congratulated on his action in writing to the Press, and appealing to the public to discontinue a very prevalent practice of giving money or drink, to workhouse inmates who are out for their weekly or monthly leave. Mr. Rutherglen states that such mistaken kindness and indiscriminate almsgiving do much more harm than good, as the inmates of workhouses too often return in such a condition as to necessitate the stopping of future leave, even if they escape getting into trouble with the police. We think

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