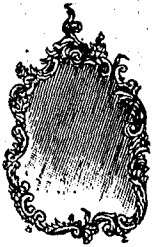


Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE QUEEN has sent the following message, through her secretary, to the Lord Mayor in reply to his telegram that the Indian Famine Fund has been started at the Mansion House:—"The Queen thanks your Lordship for the information contained in your telegram, and commands me to state that Her Majesty wishes to contribute £500 to the Indian Famine Fund."

H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught will preside at the Biennial Festival of the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic (Albany Memorial), Queen Square, Bloomsbury, on the 24th March next.

The Lord Mayor has consented to preside at a Festival in aid of the funds of University College Hospital, on Wednesday, 10th February, at the "Hotel Cecil." The debts to bankers and tradesmen amount to £15,000, and the Committee have resolved with the utmost reluctance to close 50 beds on the 1st March, unless they are enabled to carry on the work without increasing the debt.

Sir Joseph Lister, on being raised to the Peerage, has selected the title of Lord Lister.

Baroness Hirsch, besides her gift of 2,000,000f. to the Pasteur Institute, intends to give a like sum for a Hospital for English consumptive children on the Riviera, and has directed Dr. Goldschmidt to find a suitable site.

The gradual upraising of the new and magnificent General Hospital at Birmingham is being watched with justifiable pride by the citizens, who take a peculiar pride and interest in the numerous philanthropic and benevolent Institutions in their fine city. Architecturally we are informed the new building is beautiful, and is to be a great ornament as well as a great benefit to Birmingham. Upwards of 400 workmen are engaged on this great work, and it is with peculiar pleasure that we learn details of a most interesting function which took place in the Masonic Hall, when Mr. J. C. Holder, Chairman of the Hospital Building Committee, entertained the whole working staff to a typical Christmas Dinner. Those present were struck with the genuine pride which the men took in the work, and how vigorously they applauded every allusion to the general excellence and enduring quality of the structure. It is hoped that the opening ceremony of the new Hospital will take place in June.

The Manchester Press still teems with correspondence concerning the question of the rebuilding of the Royal Infirmary. Sir William Houldsworth suggests that if the citizens of Manchester wish to

retain the open space round the present Infirmary preserved as an "open space" for ever, that the Corporation on their behalf should buy the whole or part of the Infirmary property at a fair price. We are certainly of opinion that the Trustees should demand payment if public opinion compels them not to utilise their own land for the purpose for which it was originally acquired.

The village of Fleet, in Hampshire, is soon to have a Cottage Hospital of its own. The foundation stone of the Hospital, in which there will be accommodation for ten patients, was recently laid by the Lady Calthorpe, and it is hoped that the formal opening of the completed Hospital may take place during the present year. The ceremony took place in the presence of a large number of visitors and inhabitants of Fleet. A short address was given by Mr. Lindsay Johnston, who explained the position of affairs financially. The united choirs of Fleet and Elvetham then sang an appropriate hymn, and prayers were offered by the Rev. G. H. Preston, vicar of Fleet. A silver trowel (given by ladies in the neighbourhood) was presented by Miss Norah Preston to Lady Calthorpe, who at once proceeded to perform her part of laying the foundation stone. Great interest was shown in this ceremony by the spectators, many of whom climbed about the low walls behind the tent to get a better view. The stone being "well and truly laid" the united choir sang the hymn, "Thou to whom the sick and dying," and the vicar pronounced the benediction. Mr. Ivor Smith, the architect of the Hospital, then showed—and very clearly explained—his plans, which appear to be excellent. The building is constructed on the through draught principle. The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks proposed by Col. Gordon Young to Lady Calthorpe for laying the stone. The originator of the scheme is Dr. Wilcox, and the fact that it has progressed so far, is mainly due to the energy and perseverance of this gentleman. Fleet is an accessible centre to seven or more neighbouring villages, and is itself a rapidly-growing place. The nearest Hospital is at Basingstoke, which is thirteen miles away, and is usually full. If an accident occur in the village, the choice lies between sending it down the line to Basingstoke, or up to St. Thomas's, a distance of 37 miles. The idea, therefore, that Fleet should have a Hospital of its own is a very happy one. Dr. Wilcox has been fortunate in securing the cordial co-operation of Lord and Lady Calthorpe in the matter, and Lord Calthorpe, besides taking an active interest in the arrangements, has given the ground for the site of the Hospital on a lease of ninety-nine years, and also opened the list of donations to the building fund with a gift of £100. £650 has now been subscribed locally, so that the Committee feel justified in giving an order for the work to be put in hand at once.

For a long time it has been a reproach that the rich city of Belfast is without proper Hospital accommodation for its sick. But there is a movement on foot to establish a large new General Hospital, to be called the Royal Victoria Hospital, to which it is proposed the Medical School should be attached, and to which the York Street Flax Spinning Company have just contributed the munificent sum of £5,000.

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