

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR



THE Duchess of Teck has consented to open the enlarged Hospital at Walthamstow on February 11th.

The Committee of St. Martin's Town Hall granted the free use of the large hall to the Charing Cross Hospital for Mr. Bancroft's reading of Charles Dickens's Christmas Carol, on Friday, January 22nd, in aid of that Institution. We are glad to hear it was a great success.

On Monday next, the 25th inst., at 4.30 p.m., at the Royal United Service Institute, a meeting will be held to which medical men throughout London are invited, as well as the chairmen of general Hospitals, to discuss and, it is hoped, to approve the draft scheme for a Central Hospital Board for London, subject to such modifications as further discussion may suggest, and to appoint a general committee.

At a meeting of the governors of the Bedford General Infirmary recently it was decided to commence building a new county Hospital at a cost of about £33,000. Towards the sum required £27,000 is already in hand, including two donations, each of £5,000, by the Duke of Bedford and Mr. Whitbread.

A lively correspondence is taking place in the *Times* on the question of Hospital Reform.

At a recent meeting of ladies, held in the Town Hall at Belfast, the Lady Mayoress made an eloquent speech in support of the proposed new Victoria Hospital, and announced that although the scheme was only suggested a month ago, already £48,000 had been subscribed. She pleaded for £100,000, as the least sum required for the purpose of raising a fitting memorial "of the record reign of our beloved Queen." No doubt the money will be speedily forthcoming for so good a purpose.

A special meeting of the committee of the Liverpool Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest, was recently held at the Hospital for the purpose of considering the selection of a site for the proposed new Hospital. The committee again considered the different schemes which had been suggested, and after exhaustive discussion they unanimously resolved to build immediately a branch Hospital in the country with accommodation for twenty patients, and on its completion to take down the present houses in Mount Pleasant and erect a new Hospital with provision for forty beds. Each of the two branches are to be so arranged as to allow for further extensions after a fair trial has been made as to which branch should be enlarged. The committee are to be congratulated upon having overcome a great difficulty, and there is nothing now required to ensure the success of the undertaking but for the public to respond to the committee's appeal for £53,000, of which something like £23,000 has already been promised.

Professional Reviews.

"AN ELECTRIC EYE."

WE have read with the deepest interest, in the December number of *Pearson's Magazine*, the account of an electric eye constructed by an Indian Professor, Jagadis Chunder Bose, M.A. (Cantab.), D.Sc. (London), and Professor of Physical Science at the Presidency College at Calcutta. This distinguished gentleman, whose paper on "Electric Waves," read before the British Association, caused, we are told, quite a sensation amongst the many distinguished European savants present, is a Hindu, and a native of Bengal. With our insular arrogance, we are somewhat inclined to suppose that the West has the monopoly of scientific brilliancy, and to forget that while it was still inhabited by hordes of barbarians, generations of culture had endowed the East with philosophers and deep thinkers. The light which has now descended upon us from this quarter, in the person of Dr. Bose, appears to be one of exceptional brilliancy. Dr. Bose who, like most men of genius, is an enthusiast about his work, tells us that "we hear little and see still less. Our range of perception of sound extends through only eleven octaves; there are many notes which we cannot hear. Our range of vision is still more limited; a single octave of ethereal note is all that is visible to us. The lights we see are few, but the invisible lights are many." We are told further that the discovery of Professor Bose "distances the Röntgen Rays as they distance photography."

In order to see the "invisible lights" Dr. Bose has constructed an electric eye, capable of seeing through "such unpromising material as doors, brick walls, granite, rock"; in fact, the only known substances which offer more than a trifling opposition to this wonderful discovery are metallic plates of a fair thickness.

We have not space to quote further from this article, but we commend the whole of it to our readers, and feel sure they will find it absorbingly interesting.

NURSES A LA MODE.

WE read with a feeling of distrust and disappointment the first instalment of "The Christian," by Hall Caine, in the December number of the *Windsor Magazine*; distrust as to what would be the sequel to a story which opens with a nurse of the type of Polly Love as a prominent figure, and disappointment that an author whose "fundamental aim is (he tells us) the maintenance of the Christian character," should choose from among all the noble women whose devoted and self-denying lives have gained for the Nursing Profession its present position, a woman "with a certain blemished appearance about her beauty, as of a Parian vase that is cracked somewhere," as one of his central characters. But the current number of the *Windsor Magazine* more than confirms our worst fears. We have read with indignation and disgust the libellous travesty of hospital nurses depicted in it by Mr. Hall Caine. We intend to deal fully with the matter next week. Meanwhile we would simply say that the question is one which nearly concerns not only hospital nurses but hospital authorities also, as the funds of our voluntary charities must inevitably suffer if such slanders are permitted to go unanswered.

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