

## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE Queen has been pleased to grant the dignity of a Baronet of the United Kingdom to Sir William MacCormac, President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, which has been closed for two months, for extensive repairs, has now been re-opened.

The prizes gained by the students of the Medical School of St. Thomas's Hospital were distributed on Saturday, October 2nd, by the Rev. Dr. Fairbairn, Principal of Mansfield College, Oxford. The Treasurer of the Hospital, Mr. Wainwright, presided, and amongst those present were Sir Samuel Wilks, President of the Royal College of Physicians, and Sir William MacCormac, President of the Royal College of Surgeons.

During the past year 4727 in-patients have been treated in the General Hospital, Birmingham, while the out-patients numbered 56,689. Since the hospital was first opened no less than 1,847,077 have received treatment. We shall await with interest next year's report, which will record the move from the old hospital, in the poor and crowded situation in Summer Lane, to the new palace, recently opened by Princess Christian on behalf of the Queen.

Considerable improvements have been made at the Monkwearmouth and Southwick Hospital during the past year. For some years more accommodation for women and children has been urgently needed, as many serious cases of accident had to be turned away, neither was the accommodation for men sufficient for the number of patients seeking the benefits of the Hospital. The Committee have now the satisfaction of having erected a new wing containing four wards, with the necessary ward kitchens, bath rooms, and other modern accessories. The two wards on the ground floor are for women, those above being for men. In addition to the new wing, some important improvements have been made in the original building. A washhouse and laundry have been erected, and the accommodation for the permanent Hospital Staff has been improved. Dr. Modlin, in presenting, and moving, the medical report at the Annual Court of Governors, spoke appreciatively of the Matron (Miss E. F. Deakin) and the nursing staff, and said that the Matron was a lady fully qualified for the duties she was called upon to perform, and the nursing staff would compare favourably with that in any similar institution.

The Rushden Nursing Association is to be congratulated that, in spite of the grant generously given by the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute having been reduced from £25 to £10, the standard of its income has been maintained by local help. This is a sure proof that the services of the district nurses are appreciated; 10,939 visits have been paid during the past year, and many acute cases have been attended.

Sir Henry Irving, in speaking recently at Cardiff, at a complimentary luncheon given to himself and Miss Ellen Terry, commented on the fact that it was "gravely urged" at the Sanitary Congress at Leeds by a medical gentleman—who perceived an intimate relation between sanitation and the drama—that many crimes had been originally prompted by pictorial advertisements. Sir Henry thought if this were so, the case must be a little worse when they went to the theatre, and saw Othello murdering poor Desdemona; and said that "if he were present at a sanitary congress, he should be disposed to ask how many innocent wives had owed a violent death to the pernicious example of Shakespeare."

An epidemic of small-pox has broken out in Cyprus, and is steadily increasing, in spite of all precautions. The whole of the Turkish quarter has been attacked, as well as many other parts of the town. It is stated that the disease was brought over from Beyrout by a Turkish woman and her child, and obtained a footing before the authorities were aware of the fact. Means of isolation are said to be most primitive, and the lack of medical assistance has occasioned much comment.

The fact that in recent returns sixty deaths from plague in one week are shown to have occurred in Bombay, proves that, unhappily, the epidemic is far from being stamped out. The plague has also re-appeared at Kurrachi, and is officially reported to have broken out at Sholapur.

If ever the surroundings were conducive to ill-health, or a prolongation of disease, says the *Daily Mail*, those of a Chinese hospital are certainly meant to be productive of continued revenue to the owner. For, be it known, the Chinese hospital is a private institution run by the undertaker! He is always on the safe side. If the patient keeps alive he gets money for caring for him. If his friends tire of paying for his keep he is placed in the "chamber of tranquillity." After he dies the undertaker, that Pooh Bah who has three offices only, buries him and makes money out of him to the last. Imagine a room about ten feet wide and twelve feet long filled with the odds and ends of a junk shop. Let this room be so dark that it takes two candles to make a light, and so filled with the malodorous smells that are usually met with in Chinatown dens that a strong man hesitates before he enters, and gasps for breath after he gets inside. Place half a dozen bunks round the walls and a cauldron in which some witches' broth is boiling in the corner. Let the walls be so full of rats' holes that the three cats which make themselves at home on the bunks, with the sick Chinamen, are insufficient to watch them all. Imagine all this and you may have some slight conception of what the interior of a Chinese hospital looks like. If your imagination is very vivid, and you have seen Chinese opium dens, you may get pretty close to the real thing. Otherwise it is beyond imagination. But the front room, above described, is elysium in comparison with the one at the back. There are grades of darkness, the scientists tell us, and these grades may be found in a Chinese hospital. Some darkness can be seen; some can be felt. That in the back room can be felt palpably. In fact, it is present to all the human senses at once. It can be tasted. It can be heard. It can be seen.

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