

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



HER Royal Highness the DUCHESS OF YORK was present last Saturday at a Musical Conversazione at the National Hospital.

The Park Hospital, the latest addition to the hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums' Board, was opened on Monday last by his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. The Prince was accompanied by the Princess of Wales and Princess Victoria. His Royal Highness, in acknowledging the address presented to him, thanked the managers for "their great and noble work in endeavouring to stem the tide of disease in our midst, to raise the standard of health, and to enforce the principles of sanitation in the suppression of infectious fevers."

The Committee of the Central London Ophthalmic Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, have received a donation of £400 from Mrs. James Packe towards the building fund of the Hospital.

The treasurer of Charing Cross Hospital has received on behalf of the special appeal fund £1,000 from the executors of the late Mr. David James's estate (Mr. Edward Terry and Sir Squire Bancroft) from moneys left for distribution for charitable purposes.

The annual meeting of the Coombe Lying-in Hospital, Dublin, was recently held at that institution. Many improvements in the internal arrangements of the hospital were reported, while the satisfactory announcement was made that there had been no fatal cases among the 544 admitted to the labour wards.

The Committee of the Mercer's Hospital, Dublin, has elected a new visiting staff in the place of those gentlemen whose services were dispensed with by resolution of the Governors. Dr. Ward is the only member of the old staff who has been re-elected. Dr. E. Shamer Grady, a member of the former surgical staff, entered a protest against the proceeding, on the ground that "there were at present a sufficient surgical and medical staff in the hospital."

The Board of Superintendents of Dublin Hospitals has presented its annual report to Parliament, and is interesting as claiming for the hospitals under its supervision a maximum of efficiency and a minimum of expenditure. The report states in support of this that two general hospitals, two lying-in hospitals, one fever hospital, one ophthalmic hospital, and one lock hospital in London have been selected for comparison with similar institutions, the bed accommodation being practically the same. It was found that the outlay per year per bed for everything except building and furnishing was for the Dublin hospitals £49, for the London hospitals £108 10s.

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.

A PUBLIC QUESTION.



A MEETING of influential and representative women was held on Tuesday, July 13th, at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W. Amongst those present were the following:—Lady Stevenson, Mrs. Carmichael Stopes (Editor of *British Freewomen*), Mrs. Alec

Tweedie, Mrs. Roberts Austen, Miss Mackenzie, Miss F. E. Straker (Member of the Hornsey School Board, and Secretary Women's Liberal Association), Miss Caroline A. Martineau, Miss Walker, Miss Conway, Miss Cons, Mrs. King Roberts, Miss Olga Hertz (representing the Executive Council of the National Union of Women Workers), Miss Blackburn (Editor of the *Englishwoman's Review*), Miss Chadwick, Miss Everest, Mrs. Somerville, Miss Wolff von Sandau (The Metropolitan Council of Women), Miss Adah Davis, Miss Lannowe, and others.

The Chair was taken by Miss Balgarnie. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick addressed the meeting, and explained the reasons for which the Royal British Nurses' Association was founded, the difficulties which had arisen, and its present position. After this the following Resolution was proposed by Mrs. King Roberts, seconded by Lady Stevenson, and was carried unanimously:—

"That this meeting expresses no opinion concerning the serious charges made against the officials of the Royal British Nurses' Association, but is strongly of opinion that a public inquiry should be made into those charges, and cannot but hope that the officials in question will see the propriety of demanding such an inquiry for their own sakes. As the Association is a body of working women, incorporated by Royal Charter, but which is at present almost entirely managed by men, the demand for such a public inquiry deserves the cordial support and assistance of all the Women's Societies."

The next Resolution was proposed by Mrs. Somerville, and seconded by Miss Wolff von Sandau:—

"Those present, therefore, pledge themselves to bring this matter before the public, before Members of Parliament, and before Women's Societies, by means of public meetings, and by such other measures as may seem advisable."

Mrs. Somerville, in proposing the resolution, said that she was convinced that as men come to realise the power which women possess when they combine with others, everything which they have already gained will be contested, and women will have to fight, inch by inch again, over the ground which they have won.

Miss Wolff von Sandau stated that she knew enough of committees and of the management of public business to know that men were exceedingly tenacious of power, and that some did not scruple to descend to dishonourable means to keep it in their own hands.

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