

## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The Queen has been graciously pleased to confer a baronetcy upon Dr. Samuel Wilks of Guy's Hospital, Fellow and President of the Royal College of Physicians of London, and one of Her Majesty's Physicians-Extraordinary.

Her Royal Highness the Princess Christian has changed the date of her forthcoming visit to the Hampstead Hospital, for the purpose of unveiling two Diamond Jubilee beds therein, from March 5th to February 26th.

Sir Squire Bancroft, by the reading he gave last week at the Inner Temple Hall, completed the sum of £7000 as gifts to hospitals and similar institutions, by his rendering of Dickens's "Christmas Carol."

The Twenty-fifth London Course of Lectures for Sanitary Officers—arranged by the Sanitary Institute—is most comprehensive. Dr. Louis Parkes will deliver the inaugural lecture on the 21st inst., and will deal with "Blots in our Sanitary Administration—Why Epidemics occur?" Such subjects as "The Law Relating to the Supervision of Food Supply," "Scavenging," and "Disposal of House Refuse" are subjects of interest to every householder.

Dr. Lovell Drage, of Hatfield, writes to the *British Medical Journal*, this week, that he is prepared to give notice that at the next annual meeting of the British Medical Association he will propose that "The Council of the Association be directed to take steps to obtain the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the constitution and government of the medical profession, and into the grievances of its members." This *à propos* of the obstructive policy of the General Medical Council.

With the help of Mr. Passmore Edwards, arrangements have been made for the extension of the Willesden Cottage Hospital at a cost of £2500. The hospital was originally erected by Mr. Edwards in 1893, but with the abnormal growth of this rapidly increasing district the present accommodation has for some time past been found inadequate for the necessities of the locality. It is proposed by the council that the hospital should in future be known as the "Passmore Edwards" Hospital for Willesden.

The late Mr. Thomas Porter, yarn agent, of Manchester, has left £70,000, of which the income is to be devoted to the benefit of orphan children who are leaving orphanages and orphan schools, to enable them to begin life more comfortably than they otherwise might. During his lifetime Mr. Porter gave £50,000 to the Crossley Porter Orphanage at Halifax. The trustees of the bequest have appointed a board of governors and the new charity is to begin forthwith.

The first sod was cut last Monday week for the erection of extensive convalescent homes at Llandudno, in accordance with the will of the late Lady Forrester. The site, which is about a mile east of the town, com-

mands charming views. The buildings are to cost £50,000.

We are not surprised that the *Star* deals severely with Sir Henry Burdett, and the medical man who assists him to edit the *Hospital*, on the impudent levity with which they treat the conscientious scruples of humane persons who have the courage to deprecate the torture of animals and human beings in the thirst for bacteriological research by so-called men of science.

Says the *Star*:—"The *Hospital* calls itself 'a journal of medical sciences and hospital administration.' It is edited by Sir Henry Burdett, K.C.B., and Solomon C. Smith, M.D., M.R.C.P., and is therefore the spokesman of the medical profession in respect of the administration of hospitals. It is, in consequence, instructive to note the amazing attitude which it assumes towards the opponents of human experimentation in public hospitals. In an article entitled 'Hospitals and Vivisection,' it permits itself to write about the recent protest of the London Anti-Vivisection Society as follows:—

"They quote a truly lamentable case, in which a patient in a London hospital was directed to eat half a pound of butter in the course of a day, not in order that he might be fattened as material for a cannibal feast to be given by some member of the staff, but solely for the purpose of 'testing' some question which was in dispute. Our readers will remember that something similar was done by Mr. Pickwick, who took an extra glass of punch in order to ascertain whether it contained lemon-peel, which always disagreed with him, and who, comforted by the absence of the noxious agent in question, took several more glasses afterwards."

"This is not a purple passage from a post-prandial speech, but an extract from an article deliberately written for publication. What does the public which supports the hospitals and sends its friends into them, think of a profession which treats so grave a subject as if it were a good joke? The article goes on to sneer at the secretary of the society in this vulgar fashion:—

"We know nothing whatever of Mr. 'Trist,' beyond the unhappy suggestiveness of his name; but the average secretary of any 'anti' society is a person who has to earn his living by suppressing as much truth, and by inventing as much fiction, as the interests of his particular contention may require.

"Such utterances will not, we fear, dissipate the profound distrust of hospital administration which is felt by all sections of the public."

New operation and anæsthetising rooms have just been opened in connection with the North Staffordshire Infirmary, at Hartsmill, at an estimated cost of £1000.

The plague is daily assuming more serious proportions. The mortality from this cause alone is over two hundred a day. All the measures taken to suppress it have so far failed in effect, and the Government have now placed Sir Charles Ollivant at the head of the Plague Commission, and are endeavouring to induce a large portion of the native population to migrate inland some ten or twenty miles from the city, where huge camps have been erected for their reception. Many Europeans have been attacked by the disease.

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