

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



H. R. H. Princess Christian, last Saturday, visited Hampstead, and dedicated two beds at the hospital, in perpetuity, to the poor of Hampstead, in commemoration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The ceremony over, Her Royal Highness visited the children's ward, after which she was again conducted to the new wing, where she received purses on behalf of the building fund, which added a sum of £200 for the purpose.

The Hon. Sydney Holland, Chairman of the London Hospital, has sent out a letter of appeal for funds, in which he says, "Never since the hospital has been started has it been in greater need of generous help." Help will be forthcoming—it always is to Mr. Holland's pathetic appeals.

An earnest of the harvest which may be anticipated is the £6527 10s. which has been subscribed by the members of the Stock Exchange.

The Clothworkers' Company have sent a subscription of £200 to the London Hospital Maintenance Fund. They will also subscribe £200 annually for the next five years.

We are glad to observe that the financial position of King's College Hospital is unusually satisfactory this year, the total income being £21,205 12s. 3d., and the expenditure £18,665 15s. 7d. King's College Hospital has been so handicapped by monetary difficulties that this is indeed good hearing to its many friends who, we believe rightly, hold that there is no hospital in London which does more or better work upon the funds at its disposal. The reputation of the nursing school, under the able superintendence of Miss Monk, is second to none, and the nursing profession have reason to be grateful that in these days of untidy nurses and jaunty uniforms, the nurses of King's College Hospital are invariably neat, and their outdoor uniform unobtrusive and professional.

It was announced in the Report of the Committee of Management of the Royal Free Hospital to the Annual Court of Governors that the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava, President of the Hospital, will preside at a festival dinner on behalf of the charity on May 20th, at the Hotel Cecil. The same report commented upon the high standard of efficiency in the nursing department of the hospital maintained under the superintendence of Miss Wedgewood. In the annual examination the highest number of marks was attained by Nurse Laughlin, who was awarded a prize of books.

The Clothworkers' Company have given £100 to the North-Eastern Hospital for Children, Hackney Road, Shoreditch.

The memorial stone of the new Nurses' Home at the Shoreditch Infirmary was unveiled last week by

Mr. J. Little, chairman of the Board of Guardians. It is now proposed to train probationers, and to raise the standard of nursing in this infirmary—a much needed departure, which will no doubt be for the great advantage of the sick.

At a meeting of the Metropolitan Asylums Board last week, Mr. Scovell, Chairman of the Finance Committee, presented the estimates for the half-year ending Michaelmas, 1898. The increased expenditure of the year ending Michaelmas, 1897, was stated to be mainly due to the expense involved in opening the Brook Hospital. The Brook Hospital, by the way, is gaining considerable notoriety just now on account of the large excess of its cost over the original estimate. We have no space to allude to the controversy further than to say that we think it should be an invariable rule that members of committees should in no instance supply either directly or indirectly building or other materials for the institutions which they govern.

The Bishop of London presided at the Annual Court of the Seamen's Hospital Society (Dreadnought) Greenwich, which was held last week, at the Royal United Service Institution, Whitehall. It is interesting to notice that amongst the subscribers to the hospital which is open to seamen of all nations, are the Queen the German Emperor, the Emperors of Austro-Hungary and Russia, the Kings of Italy and Portugal the Queen of the Netherlands; whilst the Governments of Russia, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Spain, China, and Brazil, as well as the Secretary of State for India, are also contributors.

In a report lately issued Dr. A. Wynter Blyth (Medical Officer of Health for Marylebone) comments upon the prevalence of influenza in the parish as in the rest of the metropolis, remarking that in its less severe forms the affection assumes the guise of a "cold" of long persistence, while in the more malignant types influenza takes the character of typhoid fever, with which it is liable to be confused. He points out that the affection is highly infectious, and that persons suffering "should not receive unnecessary visitors or go into places of public resort."

The Hucknall Torkard Nurses' Home, which has been erected and furnished at a cost of £710, was last week opened by the Duchess of Portland. Her Grace expressed the great pleasure it afforded her to open the Home, and stated that the Duke—who generously gave the site for the Home—asked her to say how sorry he was not to be able to be present, as he had to prepare for the Drawing Room next day.

The number of cases of small-pox, notified at Middlesbrough since the beginning of the outbreak, amount to 610. We much regret to announce that Dr. Malcolmson, the Medical Officer of Health for Middlesbrough, died suddenly on Monday last. The overwork and worry connected with the epidemic undermined his health.

We are informed that the members of the Stock Exchange, to whom Sir Henry Burdett appealed for a pension, over the heads of the committee, have treated his application and correspondence with significant silence.

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