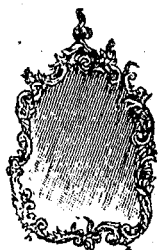


Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



Her Majesty's New Year's gifts to the poor of Windsor and Clewer were distributed last Saturday morning. A merry peal from the parish church bells at nine o'clock announced the commencement of the proceedings in the Royal Riding School at Windsor Castle. The total number of recipients was about 970, and the weight of beef about 3670 lb., while the total weight of coal was some 1350 cwt. The Queen

has also contributed £100 towards the funds of the Royal Clothing Club.

The Queen has been pleased to confer a Baronetcy on Mr. John Charles Holder, the Chairman of the Birmingham General Hospital Committee; his benefactions to local hospitals and charities of every kind have made his name a household word in the city.

The Queen has also conferred the honour of Knighthood on J. Batty Tuke, Esq., M.D., President of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh; and John Struthers, Esq., M.D., late President Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh.

The Council of the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund have made several donations to the metropolitan hospitals during the past week. We are glad to see that University College Hospital has received £2581 5s. as it is in great financial straits. The Duke of Bedford has consented to preside at a Festival Dinner in aid of the funds of this charity on Wednesday, 2nd February, at the Hotel Metropole, when we hope it may receive generous support.

The Children's Happy Evening Association has again received from its president, the Duchess of York, another handsome gift of toys and scrap-books, which have been distributed among its fifty-nine branches.

The Duke of Cambridge, and the Grand Duke Michael of Russia have lent their patronage to the scheme for the enlargement of the English hospital at Nice in commemoration of Queen Victoria's Jubilee.

The King of Siam has not forgotten his recent visit to Edinburgh, his Majesty having just presented, as a New Year's gift, to the Royal Edinburgh Hospital for Sick Children a large dolls' house, luxuriously fitted and complete in every detail.

The Council of the Royal Institute of Public Health have awarded the Harben Gold Medal for 1898 to Lord Playfair, G.C.B., in recognition of his distinguished services to the public health. They have appointed Professor Wm. R. Smith, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.S. Edin., medical officer of the School Board for London, Harben lecturer for the year 1899.

The Leathersellers' Company have published an annual statement of its charities—it would be well if the other City Guilds followed this good example.

From the statement we learn that during 1897 the company has devoted £3552 to technical education—maintaining two trade schools itself. To general charitable purposes—hospitals, benevolent societies, orphanages, &c.—it has given £3372. On the maintenance of alms-people, pensioners, and other internal charities, it has spent £1344. Its total donations amounted to £8321, out of a gross revenue of £18,000. What has become of the remaining income of £10,000?

The Local Government Board have intimated their intention of holding a public inquiry in reference to the outbreak of enteric fever at Maidstone—a few fresh cases are still notified each week.

Miss Winifred Emery has made an appeal to the public on behalf of the Grosvenor Hospital for Women and Children, in Vincent Square, Westminster, with which institution she is intimately acquainted. The hospital has lately been re-built, and is altogether a charming and home-like place.

Enteric fever has broken out at Stoke Hampton, a Bucks village, near Bletchley; and diphtheria at Baby's Castle, Hawkhurst, in connection with Dr. Barnado's Homes. Much sickness is rife everywhere, no doubt owing to the terribly humid weather and lack of frost.

Surgery is progressing, it seems, in the States. Henry Chevalier, the first patient ever trephined for apoplexy, has died in hospital. The operation (says the New York correspondent of the *Standard*) was regarded as such a success as to warrant its repetition hereafter in suitable cases. Within thirty seconds after a clot had been removed from the brain, the pulse and respiration became normal. The patient survived nearly a fortnight, but finally succumbed to a disease whose paroxysm caused the apoplexy.

The *New York Scientific Press* reports "a remarkable surgical operation has been performed upon Adrian Dehertoghe, a machinist, of San Francisco. Fifteen yards of silver wire have been introduced into and coiled within his aorta—the arterial channel leading directly from the heart. Those forty-five feet of wire have been in there for three months, and, surgeons say, have saved his life. They were inserted at a time when death seemed certain—complications resulting from a severely injured aorta—the patient's trouble being an aneurism."

The terrible blunder which has been widely commented upon in the public press, owing to which a child who was admitted into the North-Western Fever Hospital, Haverstock Hill, was buried by the parents of another child as their own, while the real parents remained in ignorance of the fact that their child's life was in any danger, has been much discussed in nursing circles. An inquiry into the occurrence is now being conducted by the Metropolitan Asylums Board, but, as the press are not admitted, we are unable to give an account of this to our readers. We think it is to be regretted that this course has been adopted by the Asylums Board, as it is rumoured that the nurses are being blamed for the mistake. All our sympathies are with the parents of the dead child.

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