

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE PRINCE OF WALES returned from Scotland in greatly improved health, and it is stated that the severe local injury to the knee has undergone a change as gratifying as it was unexpected. That has happened which does not occur once in a hundred cases of fractured kneecap, the two portions of the bone having been knit together by natural process without any need to resort to an operation, which in the case of the Prince the surgeons dared not attempt. The result is that his Royal Highness is already able to walk better than anyone dared two months ago to hope would be the case, and there is every prospect that he will in course of time make a complete recovery from an accident that at one time threatened to maim him for life.

Princess Louise Marchioness of Lorne, recognising the great need for more beds at the West London Hospital, Hammersmith Road, has intimated her intention of attending that institution on Wednesday, December 7th, at three p.m., for the purpose of opening two of the three wards built in 1896. These two wards will be furnished with fifty-two beds, all of which have been generously presented, completely equipped, by friends of the institution. Ten of them were presented by the Earl of Ilchester.

The East London Hospital for Children acknowledge the receipt of an anonymous donation of £100 "from an Old Lady for the bedsteads and bedding for the Shadwell Convalescent Home at Bognor."

A complete Röntgen rays apparatus has been presented to the North-Eastern Hospital for Children, Hackney Road, Shoreditch, by the Duke of Newcastle. The apparatus throws an 18in. spark, and is one of the largest and most efficient in existence.

The hon. secretary of the Free Home for the Dying, the Chase, Clapham, writes that the "Nelson" bed in the home, of which the Princess of Wales is patroness, "is greatly in need of funds to enable the council to carry on the good work of several years, during which many broken-down seamen have found therein a real home, saving them from what so often is the sad lot of an old tar, death in the workhouse." Contributions will be received by the bankers, Messrs. Hoare, 37, Fleet Street; the treasurer, Mr. William Hoare; and the secretary at the home.

We are glad to see that the members of the St. Marylebone Vestry are beginning to awake to their public duty in relation to the moral tone of the parish. It appears that it is not only the most conservative and dirty parish in London, but, according to Mr. W. Reynolds, the most disorderly. At the last meeting of the Vestry this gentleman moved: "That it be referred to the Parliamentary Committee to consider and report as to what steps can be taken to prevent the starting of sham massage establishments in St. Marylebone, and for getting rid of those now existing."

Marylebone parish and another parish, he said, had more of these establishments than all the other parishes in London put together. There was one female proprietor of such an establishment who boasted and advertised that on account of the increase of business she was obliged to take larger premises.

Mr. Dunn failed to see what good the Vestry could do. The matter was one for the police.

On a vote being taken, we are thankful to observe that the motion was unanimously adopted.

We wish Mr. W. Reynolds would turn his attention to the filthy condition in which the streets in Marylebone, are permitted to remain from week's end to week's end. The residents pay exorbitant rents and rates, and in return have to blunder home in semi-darkness after dusk, wallowing through half a foot of mire. On Sunday mornings the gutters are particularly disgusting, being the receptacle for dead cats, and apparently the recognised swill tub of the parish.

The slovenly manner in which the contractor is permitted to distribute the contents of the family ash-pits on area steps and pavement when he *does* condescend to remove the household refuse is simply scandalous, and the thrifty housewife with a sense of sanitation subjects herself to the somewhat ribald wit of his myrmidons if she ventures to object to these decomposed droppings. This is especially exasperating when during the week she subjects her olfactory nerves to much offence, owing to the consumption of vegetable matter in the kitchen stove; and when on "At Home" days, being somewhat "house proud," she finds her otherwise speckless door-step liberally besprinkled with the cocks' combs, cinders, and curl papers, of a more attractive if less thrifty neighbour, she is inclined to wonder why the medical element, which so largely preponderates in the Parish of Marylebone, does not practice what it preaches, and insist on decency and order in things municipal.

Perhaps there is no society founded within recent years which has exercised a more widespread and beneficent influence than has that inaugurated by the Countess of Dufferin, "The National Association for supplying Female Medical Aid to the Women of India."

The Thirteenth Annual Report of this Association is therefore of exceptional interest. The map given at the beginning of the volume shows how branches of the Association are to be found in every part of India, and the organization, which has been necessary in the past, to found the Zenana Hospitals which are now at work in this immense empire, and to keep in touch in the present with the work done by them must be enormous. The total number of patients treated in Hospitals for women in India, during last year, amount to not less than 38,242, while the number of out-patients is prodigious.

The establishment of out patient dispensaries had formed an important part of the work in the Madras Presidency. They are officered by women for women. The Madras Branch has expressed the decided opinion that it is undesirable to engage lady doctors from England—always an expensive arrangement—and to rely as far as possible on ladies educated in India up to the various degrees required, and only where

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