

## Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



NEWS comes from the London Homœopathic Hospital that a Lady House-Surgeon has been appointed to attend the female patients. Also that a ward for the reception of diphtheria cases has been opened for about three months, and that there is seldom an empty bed. At present it is crowded, and already there are suggestions that in another year it may be enlarged.

The Corporation of the City of London has made a grant of one hundred guineas to the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital, Moorfields.

At the Quarterly Court of the Governors of the Consumption Hospital, Brompton, it was reported that two memorial wards had been named since the last court, one in memory of Mr. Richard Gibbs, and the other the "Caroline Anna." The usual gift from the Metropolitan Hospital Sunday Fund, amounting to £1,341 7s. 6d., had been received, a smaller sum than in 1897. The special attention of the governors was called to the fact that a very large outlay would be necessary in building the new nurses' home, and their further interest was asked in aid of the proposed "Country Branch and Convalescent Home." The following legacies were announced:—Miss Harriet Innes £50., Richard Lloyd, Esq., £500, Mrs. Eliza Roberts £1,000, duty free.

At the recent quarterly Court of Governors at the Middlesex Hospital, the Secretary Superintendent reported that the hospital was reopened, after alterations and repairs, on September 19th, and such was the demand for beds that within a fortnight the wards had resumed their normal state. During the quarter ending September 30th there were sent to the convalescent home, at Clacton-on-Sea, 30 men, 24 women, 9 children, 19 nurses, and staffs. This number is much below the average, in consequence of the closing of the hospital for two months. The number of patients treated in the hospital is, for the same reason, very small, as will be seen from the following figures, viz.: 190 medical cases, 290 surgical cases.

Surely after such a report the Governors will follow the example of other general London hospitals, and refuse to have the whole hospital closed to the deserving sick poor, for two whole months. It would be interesting to know which of the resident officials remained on duty to superintend the necessary eight weeks' cleansing of that institution, or if they all enjoyed an eight weeks' vacation at the same time. These are little details unworthy of mention in the quarterly report.

A meeting of the council of the Hospital Sunday Fund was held recently in the long parlour of the Mansion House. The Bishop of Southwark occupied the chair. The report stated that the twenty-sixth year of collecting had produced £36,507 from the churches, the total receipts amounting to £40,397, as against a total of £41,003 last year. The committee

recommend distribution to 188 institutions, an increase of eighty-one since the awards of 1873. Five per cent. of the sum collected was set apart for the purchase of surgical instruments in monthly proportions during the ensuing year. The committee recommended that all payments to the fund be carried to the credit of next year's fund. An earnest appeal was made to congregations which had not contributed hitherto. It was decided to hold the annual collection on June 11th, next year.

An interesting Conference was held at Morley College on Saturday last, to consider the advisability of organising a course of lectures on the Nursing of Sick Animals. The chair was taken by Mr. Samuel Taylor, the owner of hundreds of horses. The scheme is not a wholly untried one, for already the principals of Morley College, and their energetic secretary, Miss Cons, have for the last four years organised a series of most successful lectures on the care and management of horses. The lectures which were given by Professor Pritchard (ex-president of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons) aimed at doing the same work for animals as the St. John's Ambulance Association does for men by its first aid lectures. The men who have attended this course are strongly desirous that a second course on nursing should be arranged. The chairman pointed out the great advantage it would be if stablemen and horsemen sufficiently understood the care of sick horses to carry out intelligently the directions of the veterinary surgeon, and said that such men would command the best wages. He moved a resolution in favour of the formation of a class for training in nursing from the chair, which was carried unanimously. A lady present suggested that the police should be invited to attend the lectures.

At the last meeting of the Clinical Society of London, Mr. Abuthnot Lane showed the case of a man, aged nineteen years, who lost the shaft of the ulna in 1896. He was admitted into Guy's Hospital in September 1898, when the radiograph showed that there extended from either extremity of the ulna a fine spicule of bone. An incision was made along the length of the ulna and these spicules were exposed and freed from the soft parts in which they were embedded. A femur of a very large rabbit was then wired securely to the ends of the ulna, the spicules being included in the loops of wire. The result was most satisfactory.

Following the appeal made by Mr. F. A. Bevan on the 15th ult. for £12,000 to complete the British Home for Incurables, Streatham, by the addition of an entertainment hall and further accommodation for patients and staff, the home being now full, a lady, who wishes to be anonymous, has handed to the secretary of the institution, at 72, Cheapside, the sum of £1,000 for the purpose of endowing a bed in the new wing in memory of her mother, and to be known by the initials "A. M. R." It is hoped that this example may be followed by the endowment of the five other beds which are to be added to the seventy now occupied at the home.

It is interesting to learn that Mrs. Macy, Poor-Law Guardian, who exposed with such skill and courage the cruel manner in which the poor children of the

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