

capacity in which a woman was more fitted to serve than on the board of such an infirmary as this. There were many questions in which the knowledge, tact, and delicacy of feeling of women must be of enormous value.

Dr. David Newman thought it was a pity that gentlemen with ideas of their own should come forward and force the matter before the meeting. He had a fear that if ladies were placed upon the board of the Royal Infirmary, or of any infirmaries, they might lead to considerable difficulties. It was necessary in certain matters that the Matron should be an autocrat. If they had ladies making suggestions about things they knew very little about, there would almost certainly be friction.

Colonel Denny said the matter had not been sprung on the Board of Management, they knew of it in November last.

The result of the voting was that the male candidates were returned by a considerable majority; there can be no doubt, however, that the proposition of Colonel Denny was right in principle, and will probably be carried out in the future. It is significant of public feeling on this matter that the candidature of the two ladies was supported by two members of Parliament. It is further noteworthy that the chief opposer of this just measure was a medical man.

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## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



PRINCESS CHRISTIAN last week opened a bazaar in the Guildhall at Cambridge in aid of establishing a Convalescent Home at Hunstanton in connection with Addenbrooke's Hospital. Every large hospital should supplement and complete its work in treating and nursing the sick, by providing means for their convalescence. Rest and fresh air after acute illness often re-establishes the health of the bread winner, or home keeper, completely, and is thus of inestimable value to the poor.

The new wards of the Royal Portsmouth Hospital, erected as a memorial of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, are to be opened this month by the Duke and Duchess of York. The increased size of the Hospital will however necessitate increased liberality in the future if the larger hospital is to be efficiently maintained, and we hope that there will be a generous response to the appeal.

The Duchess of York has promised to visit Lynn and the West Norfolk Hospital in April, to assist in clearing off the debt incurred in commemorating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee by extending and improving the property.

Earl Beauchamp, the new Governor of New South Wales, will preside at the Central Poor Law Conference, to be held at the Guildhall on the 16th and 17th inst. We hope Miss Julian and Miss Wilkie will bring forward their suggestions on Nursing reform.

Mrs. Colman, M.D. (Lond.), Miss Keith, L.R.C.P. and S., Miss Thorne, M.D., and Mrs. Hawkes, L.R.C.P. and S., have received appointments as lecturers under the School Board for London. It is the duty of these four ladies to give ambulance lectures in the evening continuation schools of the Board

At the annual meeting of the Royal Hospital for Children and Women, in Waterloo Road, held at the Mansion House, a special donation of £500 was announced from Mr. F. A. Hamilton, of Founder's Court, E.C., who wrote that having reached the age of ninety, he felt life was very uncertain, and he therefore wished to benefit the institution while it was in his power to do so. An urgent appeal was made for funds.

It is stated that Sir Squire Bancroft's reading at St. George's Hall, on January 19th, on behalf of the Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, City Road, E.C., resulted in a net gain to the charity of over £300.

Dr. F. J. Waldo, medical officer of health of the Temple and Southwark, has been appointed Milroy lecturer by the Royal College of Physicians of London for the year 1900. The subject of the lectures will be "Summer Diarrhoea: with special relation to causation and prevention."

The Central News says the National Anti-Vaccination League is making arrangements for a serious and thoroughly-organized crusade against the system of vaccination. An International Anti-Vaccination Conference will be held in Berlin in June.

The Special Commissioner of the *Daily Chronicle* in an interesting article discusses at length the better methods of dealing with the various classes of the poor who are now received by the workhouse. For the children it is urged that it is intolerable that they shall be branded and punished for the sins and misfortunes of their parents. They should be de-pauperised and cared for in scattered homes, country colonies, or by the boarding-out system. With regard to the imbeciles and epileptics, it is urged that it is "diabolical" to herd imbeciles and epileptics together. The epileptic can work, he can be taught, and he can lead a fairly happy life in the intervals of his seizures. Proper training and treatment should be found for him in suitable institutions.

With regard to the sick, it is urged that they must be removed from all penal associations. The precedent afforded by the county control over lunatics may well be followed, county infirmaries being set up by the County Council, the borough corporations assuming the control over the infirmaries of the large towns—a course which would possess the further advantage of constituting an authority competent some day to co-ordinate and control the medical charities. Many of the modern workhouses could be easily adapted for county infirmaries, and grants in aid of cottage hospitals could also be made out of the new county rate.

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