

out these improvements, and then invited Her Royal Highness to announce the opening of the Nurses' Home, which she did in the words: "I declare the Nurses' Home open," the announcement being received with applause.

The Duchess then received purses of money towards the sum appealed for, and afterwards visited the wards, and presented each of the patients with bunches of daffodils daintily tied with green ribbons. "She spoke to me too," said one weary looking woman, "I was most asleep when she came into the ward, but I didn't feel a bit shy; they're all the same, so homely like."

The Nursing staff were assembled on each landing and made their curtsies simultaneously as the Duchess passed by. The Sisters wore pretty blue linen, the staff nurses striped galatea, and the probationers neat grey. The close-fitting, three cornered caps worn by the probationers looked very professional and pretty.

After inspecting the wards, Her Royal Highness took tea in the Matron's room, and left the Hospital about 3.30.

The house in Neville Street has been admirably adapted for a Nurses' Home, and the twelve probationers who live there are to be congratulated on their quarters. It is in the charge of a Superintendent who most courteously took me round and described the arrangements, and the difficulties which had to be overcome, in adapting the house. The one drawback is that the sitting-room is in the basement, which seems a pity; but it is very comfortably furnished, and by utilizing this room there is more bedroom accommodation than would otherwise be possible.

The bedrooms are delightful. Each probationer has a separate room which is large and airy, and the rooms are papered with pretty blue or pink papers. The furniture is pleasant to look at, as well as substantial, and certainly many girls in their own homes are not so well provided for as are the probationers in this hospital. It would seem as if they took a real interest in keeping their pretty quarters as dainty as possible, for their own personal possessions give just the touch needed to make the rooms quite charming.

The probationers have breakfast in the Home and then go to the Hospital. In their daily two hours off duty it is a great advantage to them to be able to get right away from the Hospital if they do not wish to go out.

The Committee are to be congratulated on the provision they have made for their nurses, and we do not doubt that the popularity of the hospital with intending probationers will be increased thereby.

M. B.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



patronage.

By direction of H.R.H. the Princess of Wales, a cheque for £5 11s. 6d. has been received by the secretary of the British Home for Incurables, as a result of a further sale of Canon Fleming's Sermon, "Recognition in Eternity," published by Messrs. Skeffington and Son. The British Home for Incurables was the first charitable institution in England to receive the honour of Her Royal Highness'

The Duke and Duchess of York have consented to visit Portsmouth at the end of next month to open the first block of the new hospital which has been erected as a memorial of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The foundation-stone was laid by the Duke of Connaught, and the block, towards the erection of which £15,000 was raised during the Jubilee year, will cost when furnished £20,000.

The first annual dinner in aid of the Hackney Children's Hospital took place at the Holborn Restaurant. The dinner was organised by the Hackney Society, whose object is to further the interest of the institution. In proposing the toast of the evening, the Rev. Stewart D. Headlam thought that the report, generally speaking, was of a satisfactory nature. The Hackney Society took upon itself the work of collecting money in aid of the Children's Hospital, chiefly in the Hackney neighbourhood. The sums collected were as a rule small; but they were obtained from thousands of people. Subscriptions were subsequently announced to the amount of £250.

A Hospital Secretary who would "like to sign his name, but has too many children dependent upon him to do so" writes to the *Charity Record*, in support of a fellow Secretary who has been taunted in the *Hospital* newspaper with "being afraid of his own views" and without the "courage to sign his own name." Says the writer whose views we quote, "although 'Hospital Secretary' is unknown to me, I'll warrant he is no coward, and that he like myself would gladly sign his articles or letters . . . were he not satisfied that doing so would bring upon the charity which he serves all sorts of troubles, and possibly reduced grants. Rightly or wrongly we hospital secretaries—I speak for those whose views I know—are under the impression that if we speak out on such subjects as the Prince of Wales' Fund, or the Hospital Sunday or Saturday Fund, we risk the thumbscrew, the rack, and all other good things specially kept ready for those persons who show a tendency to disagree with the powers that be. The truth is, the Prince's Fund has never been very popular with the "special" hospitals, and the reason is not very far to seek. Rightly or wrongly we look upon the Prince's Fund as a one-man concern, and as many of us fancy we have "seen that man down Sheffield way," and have little or no belief in his affection for "special" hospitals, we have always felt that the "generals" would benefit most by the fund, and the specials would receive little or no assistance.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)