

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



SPLendid as the generosity towards the Mansion House Fund for the Transvaal Refugees is we could wish to see it doubled. The sum of £160,000 which the Fund is now approaching is a noble one, and the Lord Mayor may well be satisfied with the result of his appeal so far. The fund for the widows and orphans of these soldiers and sailors has received about £70,000, and the Patriotic Fund, more than this sum.

There is a specially sad significance, says the *Westminster Gazette*, in recalling that the earliest suggestion that can be traced for raising a Mansion House Fund for the aid of our wounded in war was due to a citizen of the name of Symons, and in connexion with a war against the Dutch. In these times, when a Lord Mayor receives suggestions from Secretaries of State for opening such funds, it is curious to find that the dweller in Lombard-street who in the days of Charles II. wrote to Sir Joseph Williamson, secretary to Arlington, one of the famous Cabal Ministry, and Clerk of the Council, desiring to wait upon him with proposals for raising some money for the poor wounded seamen in the naval struggle then being waged by England and France in alliance against Holland, had his doubts as to whether the leading officials of the City would help. For he mentioned that the suggestion had been offered to the Lord Mayor and some aldermen, who could not tell what to determine, or how it might be accepted by those above, lest it might seem to hint that the King was not himself sufficiently kind or careful in the sailor's behalf.

Mr. H. H. Marks, M.P., presided a few days ago over the half-yearly court of governors of the Royal Orthopædic Hospital. In moving the adoption of the report, the Chairman stated that the Hospital, which had been closed to in-patients since midsummer, was about to be re-opened, and that nearly £2,000 had been expended on sanitary improvements. As a result the charity now possessed a building which, though an old one, would enable the work to be carried on more efficiently and under better sanitary conditions than had been the case hitherto.

A course of lectures has been organised by the Childhood Society to take place at the Library of the Sanitary Institute, 72, Margaret Street, W., on Tuesday, October 31st, November 14th and 28th, and December 12th at 8 p.m. The subjects are "Mental Hygiene applied to Schools," by Francis Warner, M.D., F.R.C.P., "Social and Moral Aspects of Elementary Education," by Rev. T. W. Sharpe, C.B., "The Waste of Mental Energy in Children," by C. W. Kimmins, M.A., D.Sc., and "Social and Moral Aspects of Education and Training of Poor Law Children," by Frederic Harston, Superintendent, Cottage Home School, Banstead.

The foreman of a coroner's jury at Birmingham stated at the Victoria Courts, before the commencement of some recent inquests, that he wished to ex-

press the appreciation and approbation of himself and his colleagues as to the way in which the body they had to view at the General Hospital was presented to them. The Coroner said that the hospital authorities always desired to do anything in their power for the convenience of juries, and it was at his suggestion that glass plates were inserted in the mortuary. This is an admirable arrangement, which is, we believe, in London to be found only at the London Fever Hospital, Liverpool Road.

The Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, has to meet an annual expenditure of £10,000, towards which it has a reliable income of only £3,671. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the forty-first periodical collection for local charities, which is to take place next Sunday and which will be given to this institution, will be a liberal one. Last year 28,559 patients were treated at the Queen's Hospital.

There was an influential gathering at the Northern Infirmary, Inverness, last week, to witness the opening by the Earl and Countess of Moray, of the Nurses' Home, which has just been added to the resources of the institution.

The report of the Memorial Hospital at Bulawayo for the twelve months ending June, 1899—with a copy of which we have been favoured—states that the institution has undergone considerable and important changes, both structurally and administratively, and that the Board has much pleasure in being able to report marked improvement in the general conditions of the hospital. The total number of patients treated during the year was 1,238, consisting of 865 white and 373 black, as against a total of 1,619 during the previous year. The falling off in the number of patients is primarily due to the fact that there has been a marked diminution of malarial fever, owing no doubt to the less severe wet season, and also to the establishment of hospitals at several of the mining centres.

The death is announced, from Bombay, of Surgeon-Colonel Hay, chief plague officer at Nasik, from an attack of the epidemic.

Letters from Holland.

The Hague, October 25th.



THE command of the ambulance of the Dutch Red Cross, which is to start on the 28th of October, for South Africa, is confided to Dr. G. W. S. Lingbeek, the founder of the Transvaal Red Cross, who has for ten years worked as physician among the Boers. The other medical men, going out with the proposed expedition to

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