

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



HER MAJESTY has, through Sir Arthur Bigge, intimated to the Newcastle-on-Tyne City Council that she will be unable to visit Tyneside to lay the foundation-stone of the new infirmary there, but that the Prince of Wales will perform the ceremony on her behalf, on a day in the week commencing June 18th. The exact date is to be fixed by the Prince later, and the Mayor states that the whole population will unite in giving to his Royal Highness a most enthusiastic welcome.

The inadequacy in the Royal Army Medical Corps to supply the proper number of trained men for the units preparing for service in South Africa is to be met by drawing on the Volunteer companies of the Medical Staff Corps. With this object two officers and 70 non-commissioned officers and men of the Manchester Medical Staff Corps are notified to join at Aldershot for immediate service in South Africa.

The President of the Gateshead Nursing Association, Mr. Walter Willson, has presented to the Society a Home for the Nurses connected with the Institution. This was opened last week in the presence of a large number of persons. It will be a great boon to the five nurses at present employed, and, as the town is increasing at the rate of 2,500 a year, provision has wisely been made for the accommodation of additional nurses in the future. The building was opened by Mrs. Willson with a gold key presented to her as a memento of the occasion and suitably inscribed. The main building contains on the ground floor nurses' sitting and dining rooms, superintendent's and committee rooms; on the first floor are five bedrooms, and above are three large attics and a box room. The outbuilding contains on the ground floor, kitchen and pantries, and on the first floor a box room, bathroom, etc. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Willson for his generous gift.

In addition to his handsome gift of £40,000 to the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, already announced, it is understood that Mr. Thomas Aitken, Leith, has given a donation of £5,000 to the Edinburgh Sick Children's Hospital, and £2,500 each to the association in Edinburgh for the relief of incurables in their own homes and to the Longmore Hospital of the Royal Association for incurables, Edinburgh.

Manchester hopes for a liberal response to its Hospital Sunday appeal. The accounts of the medical charities show a deficit of £16,000, owing to the War and Famine Funds.

The situation at Honolulu, as reported by the latest steamer, is becoming somewhat serious. Up to the middle of this month there had been thirty-nine cases of the plague, with twenty-nine deaths; of the deaths only one was that of a white person, and only half-a-dozen whites have been ill with the dreaded disease.

The town of Hilo has established a quarantine against Honolulu; armed mobs refuse to allow passengers or freight to be landed. The Honolulu Board of Health has had ten blocks of buildings burned in the Chinese quarters, and important sanitary improvements, much needed, are now under way. Every effort will be made to prevent the plague from obtaining a foothold in the Chinese quarter of San Francisco or other Pacific ports. The greatest danger for the States lies in that possibility. Dr. Wyman, supervising Surgeon-General of the Marine Hospital Service, U.S.A., in a report on the bubonic plague lately submitted, says that the epidemic is surely though slowly extending, and that now, for the first time in history, it has invaded the Western Hemisphere. Dr. Wyman traces the history of the disease from the reign of the most ancient Egyptian kings. In regard to the present epidemic he says that it appeared first in 1893 in Tonkin and Hong-Kong. He thinks that one cause of the disease in the East is inefficient feeding.

The famine in India continues to increase, and a really frightful condition exists in many provinces, while the plague still continues its ravages, and drought is making the situation worse. Nearly three million people are now employed by the Government on relief works, and still the suffering is enormous.

Small-pox is spreading with rather alarming rapidity in the Berea district, South Africa. It is particularly difficult to cope with at the present time, when everybody is interested in the war. Here is work for more nurses.

A new medical journal has made its appearance. It is called the *Physician and Surgeon*, is illustrated, and will be published weekly. It contains a number of contributions by well-known members of the medical profession, letters from correspondents in the United States, Germany, Italy, and India, and many other features of interest.

A good thing is its own best advertisement, and this is exemplified in the case of Bovril, although other forms of bringing its claims before the public are also necessarily and most judiciously used by this firm. At the Annual Meeting, the chairman announced that the net profit for the year had amounted to £125,557, and the balance dividend on the ordinary shares is 7 per cent. and that on preference shares 5½ per cent. In addition the firm is "crowded with orders," Government and otherwise, which as they could not be completed by the end of the financial year were not included in the accounts. Thirty tons of Bovril have already been sent out to South Africa, and an order for four additional tons was received from the Government on the day of the annual meeting. During the past two months the sale have been 122 per cent. in advance of last year, and the profit at least three times as great.

We learn that Mr. V. Benoit of 36, Piccadilly, is sending large consignments of his incomparable specialities for invalids to South Africa. Soon therefore the real turtle soup, consommé de volaille, and other dainties supplied by this artist in things culinary, will be obtainable in Cape Town. Nursing Sisters please note.

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