

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



Under-fed children attending London Board Schools are in future to be supplied with food through the agency of a sub-committee in each school. This scheme was sanctioned at yesterday's meeting of the School Board.

Mr. H. W. Trinder, chairman of the Board of management, announced, at the annual court of governors of the East London Hospital for children, that the Duchess of York had become patron of the institution, in which she has for some time interested herself, and which her mother, the late lamented Duchess of Teck, helped in so many ways. The legacies left for the hospital during the year 1899 amounted to £1,610 7s., these including £500 from Mrs. T. D. Hutton and £500 from Mrs. James Norton. The Princess Mary Convalescent Home at Bognor had been in operation for one year, and 317 patients had received treatment. Viscount Falkland was elected vice-chairman.

The Lord Mayor, who was accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, presided last week at the eighty-fourth annual Court of Governors of Royal Hospital for Children and Women, Waterloo Bridge Road. The hospital, which is the oldest of its kind in London, has only 52 beds and cots, and the Committee are now issuing an appeal for the purpose of extending and rebuilding it. The Lord Mayor, who is President of the institution, in commending its claims to the attention and support of the public, said that the time had now come when an effort must be made to extend its work. The hospital was abreast of the times and was rendering good work, but it needed modern buildings and more accommodation if it was to do the greatest possible good.

At the recent Annual Court of Governors of King's College Hospital the sixty-first report of the Committee, read by the Secretary, stated that during the year the whole of the wards had been refloored with polished teak, and electric light supplied to those not previously so lighted. We regret to notice that the receipts, although over £1,100 more than during the preceding year, fell short of the expenditure by more than £1,100. King's College Hospital is one of our most deserving charities, and money given to it is well bestowed. We are glad to notice that cordial votes of thanks were accorded by the Governors to the medical and nursing staff of the hospital.

The new Poor Law Infirmary, Bethnal Green, of which a full description was given some little time ago in these columns, has been formally declared open to the sick poor of the parish. Its cost, including site and furniture, is estimated at about £200,000. It is a satisfactory sign that the press is beginning to appreciate the importance of trained nursing that a contemporary, in announcing that by order of the Local Government Board, the Infirmary is to be a training school, speaks of nursing as a "subordinate branch of the medical profession." We are getting on.

The Prudential Assurance Company which has just issued its Fifty-First Annual Report, has perhaps accomplished more remarkable results in the promotion of thrift amongst the working classes than any other body has ever achieved. It has literally taken the great principles of insurance—that is to say, of wise provision for the ever uncertain future—right into the homes of the poor in every part of the country. An army of agents call week by week and collect premiums by pence here and pence there. But the enormous aggregate of these pennies swelled up last year to produce the colossal income of more than 8½ millions of pounds. More than 3½ millions were paid out in claims and at the end of December there were still nearly 13½ million people insured in this one office, while to meet their future claims, the Company has nearly 37 millions in invested funds.

Professional Review.**"A HANDBOOK OF NURSING."**

We have received from Messrs. Methuen, 36, Essex Street, W.C., a copy of "A Handbook of Nursing," price 3s. 6d., by Miss M. N. Oxford, Sister of Philip Ward, Guy's Hospital. We always welcome a book written by a nurse for nurses, and it was therefore with pleasure that we received the one we have now under review. The first chapter contains an interesting extract from a book issued in 1557, setting forth the duties of officers of hospitals in the reigns of Henry VIII. and Edward VI. Here are the paragraphs taken from

The Charge of the Nurses and Keepers of the Wards.

"Your charge is faithfully and truly to serve in this house, to obey the matron thereof.

"Ye shall also fly and eschew all railing, scolding, swearing and drunkenness.

"Ye shall in your behaviour be virtuous, loving and diligent.

"Ye shall also carefully and dilligently oversee, keep, and govern, all those tender babes and younglings that shall be committed to your charge, and the same wholesomely, cleanly, and sweetly, nourish and bring up.

"And in like manner shall ye keep your wards and every part thereof, sweet and clean.

"Ye shall also, to avoid all idleness, when your charge and care of keeping the children is past, occupy yourselves in spinning, sewing, mending of sheets and shirts, or some other virtuous exercise, such as you shall be appointed unto.

"Ye shall see that all your children, before they be brought to bed, be washed and clean, and immediately after, every (one) of you quietly shall go to your bed, and not to sit up any longer.

"These are the especial parts of your charge, which ye shall endeavour with all your powers to observe and keep, or else ye shall be expelled and banished this house for ever. And whatsoever faults ye shall perceive in any other officers in this House, the same ye shall declare unto the Governors, and not otherwise meddle or make but in your own business."

Excellent rules these even at the present day, but we miss, of course, the recognition of the nurse as a professional woman. She was expected to be virtuous, industrious, and careful of the interests of her patients

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