

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



IT is probable that during the Queen's sojourn in Ireland next month her Majesty will pay a short visit to Belfast and lay the foundation-stone of the new Royal Victoria Hospital, for which over £100,000 was subscribed, through the instrumentality of the Right Hon. W. J. Pirrie and Mrs. Pirrie. The project had its inception in the Queen's Jubilee year, and her Majesty is a patron of the institution.

Professor Hughes, F.R.S., has left most munificent bequests to four London Hospitals, and for other good work. The entire residuary estate is to consist of a trust fund to be called the "David E. Hughes Hospital Trust Fund," of which the first trustees shall be the treasurers of the Middlesex Hospital, the London Hospital, King's College Hospital, and Charing Cross Hospital, who are to retain the capital of the fund, so far as may be, in the present state of investment, and to pay, free of income-tax, an annuity of £1,000 to Mrs. Hughes during her widowhood, a life annuity of £600 to the testator's sister Margaret Hughes Millar, and a life annuity of £400 to her husband, Robert S. Millar. One-half of the remaining income is to be accumulated during 21 years and added to the principal, and meanwhile the remaining one-half of the income, and after the expiration of 21 years the whole of the income, is to be distributed in equal shares among the Middlesex, London, King's College, and Charing Cross Hospitals; but if any one of them shall fall into decay so as not to keep continuously in use for patients more than 100 beds, then such hospital shall cease to be a *cestuique trust* and its treasurer shall cease to be a trustee, and the remaining trustees shall choose another hospital in its place. But if the treasurer of any hospital shall refuse to accept the office of trustee, his hospital shall be treated as a decayed hospital. It was Professor Hughes's earnest desire and hope that after the period of 21 years has expired the four hospitals will voluntarily add to their respective funds as capital one-third of their income from his bequest. Subject to the annuities to Mrs. Hughes and his sister and brother-in-law, the sum at present available for the Hughes Hospital Fund seems likely to be between £300,000 and £350,000, and eventually over £400,000.

The *Charity Record* states that at the annual meeting of the subscribers of the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital, Mr. Henry Power, in proposing the addition of several gentlemen to the list of life governors, said that what they wanted in that hospital were more annual subscribers. They were at a little disadvantage with the Prince of Wales's Fund, because a good many men would perhaps give £5 5s. to that fund and think that they had fulfilled all their obligations to the charitable institutions of London, and, therefore, the hospital came in for very little—in fact, they got nothing at all that year. He did hope that those who subscribed to the Prince of Wales's Fund would remember that that Fund was distributed amongst a great number of hospitals and each institution got very little. He happened to be a visitor to one of the large hospitals for the Prince of Wales's

Fund, and the secretary told him his donations had seriously diminished, and gave the instance of a gentleman who had been accustomed to give 20 guineas to the hospital, but who now gave it to the Fund. He need hardly say they ought not to be satisfied with giving five guineas to the charitable institutions of London and think they had fulfilled their obligation.

In the beautiful new Infirmary at Bethnal Green, the matron's bedroom is on the first floor in such a position as to command the nurses' corridor on that floor, and an assistant matron's room occupies a corresponding position on each of the floors above. The nurses number 80, each having a separate bedroom, 17 on the first floor, 35 on the second floor, and 28 on the third. Bathrooms are provided for the nurses in convenient positions. All w.c.'s have cross-ventilated lobbies. In order to provide for the better circulation of air around the large block of buildings, communication is obtained by bridges across the open spaces formed between the blocks.

The Annual Report of the Chelsea Hospital for Women, adopted at the recent meeting of Governors, shows that many structural improvements have been made in the institution during the past year. New Sterilizing and Anæsthetic Rooms have been added to the theatre, as well as a new hot water service. Electric light has also been installed throughout the hospital, and a new lift erected. From the information which we have received it would appear that women, as well as men, have seats on the Committee of this institution. We sincerely hope that this is the case, as the co-operation of women in the management of hospitals must be of great value.

The East Ham District Council has decided, on the recommendation of the Works Committee, to erect an isolation hospital at the extreme end of the district at a cost of £40,000.

An inquest was held on a soldier who died in Pontefract Infirmary from the alleged effects of vaccination. The jury found that death was due to pneumonia, secondary to acute pemphigus following vaccination, and added a rider that the authorities at Aldershot, whence the lymph came, should institute a strict inquiry into its source.

Napoleon Bonaparte appears in the *March Century* in a new rôle—that of a temperance advocate. In the second instalment of Dr. O'Meara's hitherto unpublished "Talks with Napoleon" at St. Helena it is recorded that, having a pain in his side, the ex-Emperor asked his physician to show him where his liver was situated; and the latter, in some remarks on the causes of inflammation of that organ, mentioned intoxication as one of them. Thereupon Napoleon remarked: "Then I ought not to have it, as I never was drunk but once in my life; and that was twenty-four years ago, at Nice. . . . I drank three bottles of Burgundy, and was completely drunk. Oh, how sick I was the next day! I wonder how a man who once gets drunk can ever think of doing it again. Such headache, vomiting, and general sickness; I was nearly dead for two days." How different his career might have been if he had been as careful with regard to eating—if there is any truth in the popular story!

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