

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



Lady Raglan is organising a "Children's Fancy Fair" to take place at the Empress Rooms, Kensington, on June 9 in aid of St. Mary's Children's Hospital, Plaistow.

The report of the East End Mothers' Home, 394 and 396 Commercial Road, E., shows that 264 women were admitted in 1899 into the home, and 255 were attended as out-patients. We are glad to notice that reports are made by the Chairman, the Medical Officer, and the Lady Superintendent Miss S. E. Blomfield. This is as it should be, for no one but the Superintendent of nursing can deal effectively with nursing details. It is noticeable that, of the permanent staff, one nurse who has worked in connection with the home for six years has left to become a probationer at Charing Cross Hospital, and another has entered for training at Sheffield Royal Infirmary. This points to the fact that women trained, and even excelling, in a special branch of nursing feel their need of general training. It also points to a weak point in the organisation of the home, for, whatever may be said of giving training in maternity work to women otherwise untrained, those holding the positions of teachers should certainly have had general training. We, therefore, hope that the places of the nurses who have so wisely determined to obtain this experience have been filled by those who hold three years' certificates of hospital training in addition to the necessary special qualification.

We notice that seventeen midwifery pupils were trained during the year, and of these fourteen succeeded in obtaining the certificate of the London Obstetrical Society. Twenty-two monthly nurses were trained. It is satisfactory to see that there was a balance in the secretary's hands on January 1st of 16s. 1d., and that during the year £100 was paid off the loan from the bankers, which however still amounts to £1,050. The Committee must therefore be considerably hampered until this loan is paid off.

The 79th annual report of the Seamen's (*Dreadnought*) Hospital Society states that the year 1899 will be memorable in the annals of the Society as that in which the London School of Tropical Medicine was established and the building of the new wing of the branch hospital commenced. The establishment of the London School of Tropical Medicine marks a new feature in the development of the Society, for it is the first occasion on which a serious effort has been made to place the valuable teaching material which existed in the hospitals of the Society at the disposal of medical science. During the year a greater number of patients have been under the care of the charity than in any twelve months since the establishment of the Society. Of the 25,797 individuals treated in the various establishments of the Corporation, 2,515 were in-patients and 23,282 out-patients. From a financial point of view, the accounts show that the income from ordinary sources has been well maintained, and that in addition a liberal and generous response was accorded to the appeal for funds to extend the branch

hospital and to establish the School of Tropical Medicine. The 63rd contribution of 100 guineas has been received from Her Majesty the Queen, and the subscriptions from foreign Governments, included those of Russia, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Spain, and China. The subscribers to the Society also included the Emperors of Austria-Hungary and Germany, the Czar of Russia, the Kings of Italy and Portugal, the Queen of the Netherlands, and the Secretary of State for India.

Scotland is going ahead in recognising the value of women's help in public work. Last week a special meeting of subscribers to the Glasgow Maternity Hospital was held to consider a proposal to admit two ladies to the directorate. Mr. Robert Gourlay presided. A letter was read from Mr. Faithfull Begg, M.P., approving of the proposal. Mr. Gourlay said the directors had had the matter very carefully under consideration for some time, and they had come to the conclusion that the time had arrived when they should take advantage of the great help ladies could give in such an association as this. They were met to consider the proposal to alter the constitution by adding two ladies to the directorate, and he moved accordingly. He proposed that Mrs. Pearce Campbell and Mrs. H. T. MacPherson be appointed directors of the hospital. The motion was seconded. Dr. Alexander Robertson moved an amendment. It struck him that one of the ladies being the wife of the chairman of the committee, the result would be that there would be a want of that freedom of action desirable. He moved, notwithstanding the respect that he had for Mrs. Pearce Campbell, that she should not be elected. The amendment did not find a seconder, and Mr. Gourlay's motion was unanimously approved of.

The death is announced at Edinburgh of Sir Douglas Maclagan, Emeritus Professor of Medical Jurisprudence in the Edinburgh University—a position he held for 35 years—and surgeon-general to the Queen's bodyguard for Scotland.

At the Royal Institution recently, Professor Dewar explained how liquid hydrogen could be solidified. He surrounded the tube containing it with liquid air, so as to prevent the ingress of heat, and then applied a powerful air pump, whereupon it was seen, under the process of evaporation, to assume the form of a white foam, which became an opaque solid, filling the tube. Professor Dewar further exhibited the liquefaction of hydrogen in a closed tube by dropping the drawn-out end into liquid hydrogen, thus reducing the temperature, and shortly afterwards the tube was found to be filled with condensed hydrogen in the form of a liquid.

In appreciation of her kindness Miss Smith, the Matron of the Birmingham Skin Hospital, has been presented with a handsome diamond ring and stationery cabinet from former patients and friends, and with a set of silver tea-spoons by the nurses.

Sad news comes from Australia. Altogether ninety-three cases of plague and twenty-nine deaths from the disease have occurred in Sydney. Thursday last was set part by the churches as a day of humiliation and prayer in connection with the plague.

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