

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE following scholarships have been awarded by the London School of Medicine for Women. Entrance scholarship, £30, to Miss J. Coupland; St. Dunstan scholarship, £60, to Miss Nora Smith.

A would-be purchaser has been found for the site of Christ's Hospital, but a clause has been inserted in the contract under which the authorities of St. Bartholomew's Hospital can secure from the purchaser the strip of land they require. The authorities of St. Bartholomew's, on the other hand, desire that the price should be settled by arbitration, and consider that it would be "manifestly unfair" for Christ's Hospital to make the suggested contract.

The *Morning Leader* has drawn attention to the serious falling off in the revenue of our London Hospitals this year, and that by this loss of financial support by the most invaluable institutions for helping them, the poor are being affected by the war, as indeed is the cost of every necessary of life.

Mr. Bann, the indefatigable secretary of the Hospital Saturday Fund has given some interesting figures bearing on the hospitals' losses during the year.

As compared with the same period of last year, the incomes—to take the principal hospitals—show fallings off as follows:—

HOSPITAL.	Decrease in Revenue.
	£
St. Thomas's	7,500
King's College	2,900
City Orthopædic	1,000
Cancer	4,928
Great Northern	2,076
Paddington Green (Children's)	867
St. John's (for Diseases of the Skin)	400
Royal (for Women and Children)	250
East London (Children's)	375
Middlesex Hospital	521
Central Ophthalmic	170
New Hospital for Women (Euston Road)	250

The Hospital Saturday Fund has done well to abolish the street collections by personal demand, and this year it has placed two thousand collecting boxes in clubs, hotels, banks, and other places of resort, into which it is to be hoped the public will drop a goodly sum. The fund does not only hand over £17,000 to the hospitals, but has a surgical appliance department. A working man who subscribes, a penny a week to the workshop box wants a pair of spectacles, a set of teeth, or a wooden leg; he can go and be seen by a specialist; the fund buys him the instrument he requires, and charges him half the cost of it, which he pays in instalments if he can. This is a most useful department of the Saturday Fund, and deserves wide support.

Lieut.-Col. S. W. Wilkinson, who had been 52 years hon. secretary to the Stockport Infirmary, died last

Sunday. He held many honorary offices in the town, and his loss will be much felt throughout the community.

The Red Cross Society of America has certainly hit upon an ingenious idea of exploiting, for its own excellent purposes, the last moments of the dying century. Watch-night services will be held in twenty-seven thousand cities and towns, at which messages from crowned heads and prominent people the world over will be read. The chairman of each meeting must pay five pounds sterling before he receives a duplicate of these messages, but there will be no difficulty in finding the money by charging for admission. Meantime the messages will be kept inviolably secret.

An English observer of the miracles at Lourdes points out the fact that not one of the "cures" falls within the range of the medically impossible. Every one of the cases has its parallel in medical history, with this difference—that the healing is done at Lourdes entirely by suggestion. Partly in consequence of the alleged success of this faith-healing at Lourdes, doctors, both in Paris and in America, are studying with increased zeal to find a scientific basis, and it is said that one Paris doctor, merely by suggestion (partly hypnotic, no doubt) has already made many remarkable cures, even of dipsomaniacs.

The Little Ways of the War Office.

The arrival of the *Kildonan Castle* at Southampton from South Africa with smallpox among the returned troops on board has had a singular sequel. The majority of the men being time-expired were sent to Fort Brockhurst in the ordinary way for discharge, and the Saturday following a large proportion were sent away by rail to their respective homes. Some 200 remained in waiting for the afternoon trains, but when all arrangements for their journey had been completed, orders were received from headquarters that, in view of the risk of possible infection, all were to be detained in quarantine for ten days. The 200 men who were left consequently had their travelling orders cancelled and remained in the fort, while steps have been taken to recall the 300 who had already started.

News of the "Maine."

The American Ladies' Committee have received a cable from Major Meek, R.A.M.C., Principal Medical Officer on board the American hospital ship *Maine*, dated Wei-Hai-Wei, October 10th, in which he reports that the *Maine* had returned to that port from Taku with a large number of invalids from the seat of war, amongst whom there were eight officers and twenty-eight non-commissioned officers and men belonging to the British forces; also two officers and sixty-nine non-commissioned officers and men belonging to the American forces, the latter including eighteen men from the 9th United States Infantry, for which regiment Mrs. Alfred Corning Clark, of Cooper's Town, New York, sent the Committee upwards of £1,000 as a special donation. Amongst those to benefit from the advantages to be obtained on board the hospital ship *Maine*, the ship was to receive on board fifty additional invalids from the British forces, and she was then to sail for Nagasaki, Yokohama.

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