

## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



LORD SHAFTESBURY, in appealing for financial support for the Hospital for Women, Soho Square, says:—"The falling off of income derived from donations, subscriptions, and legacies, has recently been so great that to keep its doors open the hospital committee have been compelled to contract a debt of £5,000 with its bankers, costing them £200 a year, while to lessen the risk of enlarging that debt they have closed several wards, and, if further support than they have experienced in the past be not soon forthcoming, the closing of further wards will be the only alternative, which practically means withdrawing the hospital's sphere of usefulness altogether. Such a sad result, after so many years noble work amongst poor suffering women, must be averted by every possible means, and I confidently hope that a generous public will not permit this appeal, which is a most urgent one, to have been made in vain."

The Mercers' Company have voted the sum of 20 guineas to the funds of Friedenheim Hospital, Upper Avenue Road, Swiss Cottage, N.W.

We note that the Governors of the Middlesex Hospital were again asked at the recent quarterly Court to sanction a sale of stock to realise the sum of £8,500. At this rate the invested funds must be becoming considerably reduced.

In a special report issued by the Middlesex Hospital, it is stated that the opening of the Cancer Research Laboratories marks a new departure. The technical skill of the surgeon has reached a limit for the time being, and is waiting for that further knowledge of the exact causation of cancer which can only come from the laboratory. The new laboratories will be entirely devoted to the systematic investigation of the disease, and an appeal is now being made for the necessary funds to enable the work to be carried on.

The Medical Officer, Mr. Fardon, reported that in three months there had been 59 deaths; 37 of these arose from cancer. The number of deaths from cancer was quite unprecedented.

If the research laboratories of this institution are short of funds, it is evident that "subjects" are provided in plenty.

A theatre has been erected at the British Home for Incurables at Streatham. It is intended for the recreation of the inmates, and will seat several hundred spectators. The building is fitted with every convenience for artists and audience, and should be the means of affording great pleasure and pastime.

We understand that donations of large sums of money have just been notified to the House Committee of the Royal Infirmary, Newcastle. Mrs. Clayton, of The Chesters, has given £2,000 to endow beds in the Infirmary to the memory of Nathaniel George Clayton and John Bertram Clayton. In

memory of Major Bell, £1,000 has been given by his nephews and nieces for the same purpose.

It is claimed for the treatment at the Durham County Sanatorium for Consumptives at Stanhope, in Wear-dale, that it has already proved eminently successful, although the institution was only opened four months ago. In an interim report dealing with 15 cases the medical superintendent says the patients gained on an average  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lb. in weight per head each week, and at the same time their walking power very greatly increased. The walks are varied and extensive, and are along sheltered roads, by running streams, through woods, up hills (rising 700 feet), and across heather-clad moors, 1,400 feet above the sea level. Almost all the patients remained out of doors the maximum amount of eleven and a half hours each day, and slept with their French windows wide open all night.

Dr. Kelynack, medical registrar of the Manchester Royal Infirmary, under whose observation a great many of the "poisoned" beer drinkers have come, thus describes the "general aspect" of the sufferers:—"Frequently, but by no means always, the appearance is 'alcoholic.' The face is usually dusky, the eyes watery, and often with tears visibly overflowing. Sometimes there is distinct puffiness, especially about the eyelids. Walking is usually difficult, and the patients progress in a gingerly or ataxic manner. In bad cases there is much general wasting. The temperature in severe cases may be raised." Patients describe their sensations as like "pins and needles," "numbness," "pricking," "like walking on hot bricks," "scalding." Some complain chiefly of their "difficulty in walking." This latter at all events is nothing new in connexion with beer-drinking.

Glasgow is to have a fine exhibition next year, and the Red Cross Branch of St. Andrew's Ambulance Association intend to have a special display, which will include huts, tents, and all appliances used in the performance of their humane duties.

## A Discreditable Resolution.

The annual meeting of the Royal Hospital for Incurables, Putney, was held at Cannon-street Hotel on Friday last, Mr. H. J. Alcroft presiding. The report having been adopted, Mr. Owen Seaman, a member of the Board of Management, moved a resolution to the effect that no motion which had twice been defeated at annual meeting should be brought forward again, directly or indirectly, for five years. Mr. Seaman's avowed object was to prevent the question of the admission of women to the Board of Management being raised again. The opposition was, however, very strong. Miss Fyfe, B.A., Mr. Julian Hill, Mr. F. Nettlefold, and Mr. F. W. Blunt, denounced the motion in vigorous terms, as denying the Englishman's right of free speech, and as an attempt to gag the subscribers. Finally the motion was withdrawn.

The report stated that the question of finance has lately caused the Board some concern. If it comprises many men in sympathy with the tactics of Mr. Owen Seaman, we are not surprised to learn that the charitable public lacks confidence in it.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)