

but of course, we know that the advantages they gain by introducing themselves to the public and to crowds of young men, who will in the future bring them cases for consultation and operation, are great. There is far less to be gained by being attached to a County Hospital. There is, it is true, a certain amount of distinction, but there is also a great deal of hard work, and I must own I have conceived a very great respect for the men who give their time, which is literally money, to work in County Hospitals.

But they have their faults. Some of them attend very irregularly, and hardly ever see their own out-patients, who fall to an already very busy House Surgeon. They are unpunctual, and have a habit of appearing in the wards in the middle of the patients' dinner, which is trying; they may be called away suddenly, and have to put off operations at very short notice, but, taken altogether, they are good men and hard worked.

There are two full physicians, with an equal number of beds, and one assistant physician, with beds by courtesy; three full surgeons, one assistant surgeon, and one surgeon in charge of the ear and throat department, with six beds. All see out-patients on different days, but operate with great indifference on any day they find convenient, the regular operation hour being 12.

In brief, the general sketch of the management of the hospital is the Governors as the supreme head, appointing committees under a Chairman, which appoint and supervise the executive officers. The Visiting Medical Staff, who have medical charge of the patients assisted by the House Surgeon, the Secretary who attends to the Secretarial Department, the money matters, the engineer and the boilers, and acts for the Committee in their absence, the Matron, who superintends the nursing and domestic department, assisted by the Assistant Matron.

The Hospital itself (for its size), straggles over a considerable piece of ground. It contains six wards. A new surgical wing, containing 50 beds, 25 female and 25 male, and a theatre. The old building containing a boys' surgical ward of 12 beds, a children's ward of twenty beds, male medical 22 beds, female medical with tracheotomy ward 22 beds. It has a separate Out-Patient Department, an isolation cottage, a steam laundry, and a mortuary. Its weak points are its basement, with insufficient kitchen and store-room accommodation, and poor servants' quarters, and an altogether inadmissible Nurses' Home—a conglomeration of cottages adapted in every possible way.

All the wards have small sitting-rooms for the Sisters attached.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The King having resigned the office of Grand Prior of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England on his accession, has become Sovereign Head and Patron of the Order, and the Duke of Cornwall and York has been elected by the Chapter as Grand Prior.

Her Majesty, Queen Alexandra, has graciously intimated that she intends to retain her Presidency of the Cheyne Hospital for Children, Chelsea.

The King has appointed Lord Lister to be Sergeant-Surgeon-in-Ordinary to his Majesty. Sir William MacCormac, Bart., and Sir Thomas Smith, Bart., are appointed Honorary Sergeant-Surgeons to his Majesty.

The eighty-fifth annual court of governors of the Royal Hospital for Children and Women was held at the Mansion House, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor. The report, which was read by the secretary, stated that though the subscriptions and donations showed an increase they were still insufficient. The unattractive exterior of the building affected its claim to notice by passers-by, but this and other disadvantages it was hoped would be remedied in the summer, when the new hospital was erected. The Lord Mayor in moving the adoption of the report, said that the hospital was founded in 1816, and still continued its good work. Its accommodation was now inadequate, and there was no alternative but to ask public assistance for building an extension, the necessity for which was forced on the committee. There were few causes more admirable, and the sufferings of women and children must evoke the sympathy of all Englishmen. He concluded with an earnest appeal for aid. Sir E. Durning-Lawrence, the chairman of the hospital, seconded the motion, pointing out that there was more poverty in Lambeth, where the hospital was situated, than elsewhere. The resolution was carried, and other business having been transacted, the proceedings terminated with votes of thanks.

The nursing of this little hospital has been materially improved of late, but is carried on under structural difficulties, which are impossible to overcome until the hospital is re-built on modern plans. It is seldom realized how much good nursing depends upon good housing in our hospitals.

In consequence of the gravity of the outbreak of plague at Cape Town the Government is taking from the Corporation control in all matters affecting the plague, and is engaging a large corps of sanitary inspectors and a score of scavengers to cleanse every corner of the city thoroughly and destroy all the rats and vermin, the present sanitary condition being highly unsatisfactory. The Government is also engaging special doctors and nurses. The municipality propose to burn those houses where cases of plague have been discovered.

We congratulate all concerned in the successful effort to wipe off the debt of nearly £1,100 at the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)