

## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



A CENTRAL NEWS telegram received from Copenhagen declares that in a high and well-informed quarter it is stated that intelligence has reached there that the Czar is suffering from lung disease. In the Russian and Danish Court circles much anxiety prevails. The Czar, accompanied by the Czarina, will at an early date go to the Riviera.

Freemasons provided £83,702 for their charities last year, an increase of over £2,000 on 1899.

Mr. Newland Pedley, F.R.C.S., recently dental surgeon to the Imperial Yeomanry Hospital at Deelfontein, writing to the *Lancet*, states that while in South Africa he wrote for two dental assistants, for whom he had more than enough work.

"The committee in London, who manage the affairs of this hospital," he states, "acquiesced in my request for them to be sent—of course, at the expense of this hospital, and not at that of the War Office: but the latter absolutely refused to endorse the appointment of more than one dental attendant in this British army of about 200,000 officers and men.

It is announced that five railway ambulance carriages have been constructed for Army use on British railway lines, to convey from ports of disembarkation to hospital, or from one hospital to another, any sick or wounded who require lying down accommodation or special attention during a railway journey. Each carriage is arranged to carry about twenty-five patients, of whom twelve can have lying down accommodation. The carriages are to be kept at Netley when not in use.

Mr. Arthur J. Coke, secretary of Our Dumb Friends' League, 164, Buckingham Palace-road, makes an appeal on behalf of that organization. "Last year, through the generosity of the public, this league," he says, "was able to pay a hundred and thirty-seven dog licences for soldiers doing duty at the front. Owing to the very lamentable continuation of the war, there are still a great number of the men serving their country, and once more their wives and friends are bound to face the fact that the dogs committed to their charge must be destroyed or parted with unless assistance is forthcoming to pay the licences." Mr. Coke refers to the regret which would be caused to many soldiers if on coming home they found that their pets had been destroyed or otherwise disposed of.

To commemorate the opening of the new century, Mr. A. Peckover, Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, has given another £1,000 to the funds of Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, of which he is president.

What nice little "pots" of money can be gathered in by the shilling subscription system! Note the enormous sum thus collected by the *Daily Telegraph* last year for our soldiers' widows, and now the *Western*

*Mail* Cardiff Infirmary Fund already stands at more than £2,555.

Sir William Ogilvy Dalgleish, of Errol Park, has intimated his intention of defraying the cost of making structural alterations on and additions to the eye ward of the Royal Infirmary, Dundee. When the alterations are made and the ward finished it will be one of the most complete wards of its kind in the country. It is stated that the cost will be between £500 and £600.

The past has been a prosperous year for the Victoria Infirmary at Glasgow, and at the New Year's meeting of the Committee we are not surprised to find the governors congratulating themselves upon the good work accomplished.

To begin with, a few statistics were given showing the work of the institution during the year, it being stated that, among other things, there were no fewer than 1,871 patients in the wards, the largest number since the Infirmary was opened. Besides these 344 cases of minor accidents were treated, while in the dispensaries consultation was given in 10,191 instances.

By the addition of the New Nurses' Home, it was also mentioned, accommodation was now furnished for 50 nurses. The Convalescent Home at Largs still continued to prove a great boon to patients leaving the Infirmary.

Owing to various reasons there was an increase in the expenditure last year of £1,500, and as the new ward meant additional expense, a further sum of £2,000 would be required.

The Chairman (Mr. J. Paterson) gave a short address, in which he thanked those who had contributed either in money or in kind to the requirements of the infirmary, the dispensaries, and the convalescent home. They were also grateful to the societies and guilds who had rendered them invaluable assistance, and to all who had interested themselves in the welfare of the patients.

Mr. Cameron Corbett, M.P., made a neat little speech, at the outset expressing regret at the absence of ex-Bailie Long. He paid a high tribute to the medical and nursing staffs, and spoke highly of the good work done by the infirmary.

The meeting afterwards broke up, and the visitors inspected the nurses' home, and strolled round the wards distributing toys and gifts as they went.

The Christmas festivities at the Chelsea Hospital for Women were brought to a close on Saturday last, when the Ladies Committee gave a treat and entertainment consisting of songs, conjuring, and ventriloquism, which were greatly enjoyed by the patients. The previous functions comprised special celebrations of Christmas Day for the patients and their friends and the nurses, and also on December 29th a Nurses' Entertainment, which Miss Florence Christie, Mr. George Giddens, and others helped to make a great success.

At the meeting of the British Orphan Asylum it was stated that Mr. F. P. Loveridge, an ex-pupil, who lives in New Zealand, had given £490 to the institution, "in discharge of the obligation owed by him for education."

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