

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



Queen Alexandra, it is hoped, will lay the foundation-stone of the new Military Hospital on Portsdown Hill, Portsmouth, to which her Majesty will be asked to give her name.

Queen Margherita of Italy is now installed in the palace built some fifteen years ago at Rome by the Prince Piombino. Her first care has been to acquire a quantity of unoccupied land in the neighbourhood, and on this, before long, a hospital will be erected, to be known as "The Queen's."

The Committee of the Metropolitan Hospital in the Kingsland Road has decided to increase the number of beds in use from 72 to 100. This is good news for the poor in the surrounding district. This hospital is well placed to meet the needs of a large and very poor population.

We are glad to see that most of the Somerset collieries have decided to make a special levy of 6d. per member on their miners with the object of assisting to wipe off the debt in connection with the Royal United Hospital, Bath, and further it is decided to pay two annual 6d. subscriptions instead of one to that institution. This decision should be a substantial help to the Committee of the Institution.

The Hon. Secretary of the Kingston Victoria Hospital, Mr. W. W. Drewett, has written to Mr. Skewers-Cox, M.P. for the Kingston Division, asking him to support any Bill having for its object the exemption of hospitals from local rates on the ground that such institutions save the poor-rate by treating cases which would otherwise have to go to the infirmary. Mr. Skewers-Cox's reply, when laid before the Committee of the above institution, gave much satisfaction.

A Bazaar in aid of the Bristol Hospital for Women and Children was opened on Wednesday last by Earl Roberts. The objects of the institution are (1) to provide for the reception, maintenance, and medical and surgical treatment of children under 12 years of age, in a suitable building, cheerfully and salubriously placed; to furnish with advice and medicine those that cannot or need not be admitted into the Hospital, and also to receive women suffering from diseases peculiar to their sex; (2) to promote the advancement of medical science with reference to the diseases of women and children, and to provide for the instruction of students in these essential departments of medical knowledge; (3) to diffuse among all classes of the community, and particularly among the poor, a better acquaintance with the management of infants and children during health and sickness, and to assist in the education and training of women in the special duties of children's nurses. From small beginnings in 1866 when a house was opened containing six cots for patients, this institution has grown until now. The hospital contains 104 beds and cots and has a seaside branch at Weston-Super-Mare containing 28 beds.

Professional Review.**CONSIDERATIONS SUR LES INFIRMIÈRES DES HÔPITEAUX.***BY ANNA EMILIE HAMILTON,
Doctor of Medicine.

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ARTICLE IV.**SCHOOLS OF NURSING IN PARIS.**

We now come to the consideration of lay nursing in the Paris hospitals. We are told by Dr. Hamilton that the introduction of lay nurses was not effected without trouble, for it was equivalent to the eviction of the Religious Orders which nursed all the hospitals of the Assistance Publique, with the exception of the Salpêtrière and the Bicêtre, which have always been in the hands of lay persons. The various sisterhoods concerned could not by their Rule alter their education and subject themselves to technical teaching, for which the necessity was not apparent when these Orders were founded.

Although the religious sisters only numbered 500 of the 3,000 persons nursing in the Paris hospitals at the time, the public was convinced that they alone tended the sick, ignoring the fact that the necessities of the case required the employment of subordinates, who were usually ignorant and coarse, and by whom the sick were frequently ill-treated. Details published in 1875, while the religious orders were still in office, show that the reform of this subordinate service was urgent.

"The smallest service is charged for. So much for having a basin, so much for a poultice, so much for a plaster, &c. So much the worse for the patient without means. Further, the progress of medicine and surgery, new methods of treatment, and the introduction of antiseptic treatment made technical knowledge on the part of the nursing service necessary. Nevertheless, great was the indignation of the nuns when in 1877 the Municipal Council decreed that, taking into consideration the immense importance of assuring adequate care by suitable nurses of the sick in Paris hospitals, there should be organized by the Medical Society of these Hospitals, professional teaching in minor surgery, pharmacy and hygiene, by which many persons who wished to devote themselves to the service of the sick should receive the theoretical and practical instruction necessary to make them useful assistants to the medical profession.

Further, taking into consideration the fact that the *personnel* of male and female nurses leaves much to be desired, partly on account of the meagre salaries offered to them and partly because of the small consideration shown to these subordinate helpers, who nevertheless are indispensable, and who, notwithstanding their faults are every day required to exhibit intelligence, kindness, energy, address, and courage, that the salaries offered should be raised so that the administration should not be compelled to accept persons of all kinds and characters having no idea of the duties they are required to perform."

Upon this report the administration of the Assistance Publique was obliged to accede to the desire of the Municipal Council, and to establish a municipal school for male and female nurses. The programme of teaching

* Montpellier. Imprimerie Centrale du Midi. (Hamelin Frères.)

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