

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The Queen visited the West Norfolk and Lynn Hospital last Saturday afternoon, arriving unexpectedly in a motor car, attended by Sir Dighton Probyn and Miss Knollys. Her Majesty spent about three-quarters of an hour in the institution, passing most of the time in conversation with the patients.

The Duchess of Cornwall and York, who visited the Children's Hospital while in Melbourne, and distributed toys amongst the patients, has sent a photograph of herself and her children to the institution. She has also sent her portrait to the Women's Hospital.

The Medical, Surgical, and Hygienic Exhibition will open at the Queen's Hall, Langham Place, on Tuesday next, May 28th.

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress have invited the foreign guests, the delegates, and members of the British Congress on Tuberculosis, to an evening reception at the Mansion House on July 23rd, the date of the conference.

The Lord Mayor on Saturday last travelled down with a large party by special train to Dartford to open the new buildings of the City of London's Asylum at Stone, upon which the Corporation have spent £85,000 from the City funds. The new building includes a hospital for fifty female patients, as well as accommodation for paying patients, who are received at the rate of £1 1s. per week.

Mr. H. C. Richards has notified his intention of moving the rejection of Christ's Hospital (London) Bill on second reading, and of proposing after second reading an instruction to the Committee on the Bill declaring that it is inexpedient to sanction the sale of any part of the hospital until a considered scheme for dealing with the land is before Parliament, such scheme to have regard alike to the reasonable requirements of the charity, and of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and to the importance of preserving some at least of the more interesting buildings of the hospital.

Mr. R. M. Hensley has been unanimously elected chairman of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, in succession to Sir E. Galsworthy.

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children has during the last recorded year in England, Wales, and Ireland inquired into 3,291 complaints of cruelty, of which 2,937 were dealt with and 354 are pending. The cases found true were 2,797, and affected the welfare of 8,096 children. There were 3,658 offenders. Action was taken as follows: In 2,349 cases warnings were given; in 216 cases, owing to the gross nature of the cruelty, prosecutions were necessitated (convicted 206, discharged 10), and 232 cases were dealt with by transfer, etc. Twenty-two of the children died before or during inquiry. The society's inspectors made 10,224 visits of supervision.

On Friday in last week an alarming outbreak of fire, attributed to the over heat of a gas stove, occurred in the dispensary of the Cancer Hospital, in the Fulham Road. Fire engines were speedily on the scene, and soon the danger of the fire spreading was at an end, but not before the dispensary was badly damaged.

The Dover memorial to the late Queen Victoria is to take the form of extensive additions to the hospital, at a cost of £7,400.

Dr. Thomas Dutton maintains that the habit of smoking among small boys "should be put down at once with a firm and no uncertain hand, even if Parliament must be appealed to for the purpose." He contends that smoking ruins the digestive organs of the young; that it provides a suitable soil for the germs of consumption; that it often produces a nervous intermittent action of the heart; and that it has a poisonous effect on the entire nervous system. In conclusion he says: "It behoves the authorities, who are anxiously looking for recruits for the Services, to see that the physical condition of young boys is not ruined by cigarette smoking."

Mr. Watson Armstrong, of Cragside, Rothbury, nephew of Lord Armstrong, has given £100,000 for the benefit of the Newcastle-on-Tyne new infirmary.

Under the will of Dr. Scale, who died recently, the Portsmouth Corporation receives a considerable legacy to provide annuities of £30 each for blind persons over thirty years of age. Dr. Scale was formerly a medical practitioner of Portsmouth.

Comte de Saint Ouen de Pierrecourt, who has just died, has bequeathed all his estate to the town of Rouen on condition that it institutes an annual prize of £4,000 as the dowry for a couple of giants, in order to regenerate the human race. Competitors are to be submitted to medical examination, and on the report of the doctors the prize will be adjudged—£2,000 to the husband and £2,000 to the wife.

An epidemic of spinal meningitis is rapidly spreading in Portugal.

A good story is being told of Mr. Chauncey Depew, whose talkative powers are phenomenal. He had been discussing every subject under the sun whilst sailing across the herring-pond, when one gentleman on board the steamer remarked to the great American, "Look here, Senator, you may get small-pox, but you'll get over that. There may be an earthquake, but I guess you'll get over that, too. But look out, Senator, if you get lockjaw for you'll bust."

A peculiar disease, said to have originated in Formosa, is reported from Japan. The victims lose their hair in a single night.

The chairman of the David Lewis Trust (Mr. Benn Wolfe Levy) has offered to pay the cost of installation of the Finsen cure for lupus, and its maintenance for one year, at the David Lewis Northern Hospital, Liverpool. The offer has been accepted by the committee.

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