

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The Royal Hants County Hospital has received a cheque for £1,000, bequeathed to that institution by the Marquis of Winchester, who was killed in the war in South Africa. As a result of a special appeal for funds for the hospital, a sum of just on £5,000 has been raised.

The Council of Friedenheim Hospital, Swiss Cottage, have received from a gentleman who wishes to remain anonymous, a donation of £1,000 to endow a bed "In memory of John Thomas Emmett."

Charing Cross Hospital, which has been closed since July 15, during the reconstruction of the basement, reopened on Saturday for the reception of patients.

It is stated that Mr. Low, the present holder of the Craggs Scholarship at the London School of Tropical Medicine, has proved that elephantiasis, which is spread through the agency of the mosquito, is not caused, as has been supposed, by drinking water polluted by the dead bodies of infected mosquitoes, but by the bite of mosquitoes, and immunity can, therefore, be secured by avoiding the bite of this pest. This will be welcome news to the natives of countries lying in the zone of the mosquito, where elephantiasis is most common, though it is rarely contracted by Europeans.

The Committee of the Royal National Hospital for Consumption, Ventnor, are receiving support in their appeal for funds to make undercliff walks for patients in the grounds of the Hospital. Mr. Richmond has contributed £100 to defray the cost of one walk to be named the "George Richmond Walk," and another donation of a similar amount has been contributed by Mrs. Behrend in memory of her husband Dr. Henry Behrend, after whom the walk will be named.

What the war in South Africa has actually cost in invalids through sick and wounded already discharged is tolerably well known, but it has never yet been made public how many men have been discharged from the service from the effects of wounds or sickness after being sent to duty on leaving hospital. Something more definite is, however, to be brought to light, for the Commander-in-Chief has called for a special return from the principal medical officer of each military district, to be rendered as early as possible, showing the disabilities of all warrant officers, non-commissioned officers, and men who have been discharged the service unfit in the district under his supervision during the period from the commencement of the war to the end of 1900 from causes attributable to active service in South Africa.

Review.**FOR CAP AND APRON.**

We drew attention, in a previous issue, to an admirable paper by Mr. George Frost entitled "For Cap and Apron," when it appeared in the *Leeds Mercury*. The paper has now been published, with other bright and readable "Brown Studies," in book form by Messrs. Thomas Burleigh, price 2s. 6d. net.

"For Cap and Apron" is well worth reading, and is interesting to nurses, as showing the point of view of a well informed layman on nursing questions.

"The trained nurse is," Mr. Frost asserts, "a person of great and general importance; and although she is neither perfect nor infallible her merits are of such vital consequence to us all, that in the public interest, the conditions of her life and work demand every consideration, and cannot wisely be ignored. If good nursing is essential to our safety and comfort, clearly the welfare of nurses concerns us closely, and time and thought will be better spent in ensuring adequate training, right conditions, and fair treatment for nurses, than in carping at the faults and follies, or exaggerating their shortcomings.

Does anyone still consider three or four years' training too long or too thorough for such responsible work as nursing? We expect much from nurses now-a-days; can one year's training fit them to fulfil these expectations? The standard for their work has been raised. Surely they must be duly qualified to meet it. . . . Those discoveries and triumphs of skill which crown modern doctors with success, fill their pockets, and ennoble their eldest sons, are facts which must surely affect and transform in her turn the modern nurse. Her standard of work must be raised to meet the requirements of medical progress, and her training must be adequate to the increased demands made upon her. If the patient is to be considered (and to the humble outsider it appears that he cannot be left entirely out of the question), doctor and nurse, if they are to succeed, must work together.

It seems futile to argue that we are training nurses to know too much. If a wound is to be dressed frequently, is it a disadvantage to anyone if the nurse is able to do it? If temperature charts are to be kept, the significance of symptoms understood, and intelligently reported to the doctor; if emergencies are to be dealt with, and if the nurse is to exercise a wise control over the patient, and to deserve the confidence of her employers (and more than all this is daily exacted of nurses), is it not palpably absurd to depreciate training, and to mock at the necessity for three or even four years' preparation for such responsibility? Surely to maintain a high standard for character and efficiency, to establish a definite general curriculum and a national register for nurses, would be to help the doctor, to benefit the patient, and to safeguard the public."

All this and much more is sound sense. The "study" deserves to be widely read.

By a unanimous vote, Newcastle has agreed to the appointment of two lady sanitary inspectors, who must hold the certificate of the Sanitary Institute or the Sanitary Inspectors' Final Examination. A lady sanitary inspector will also be appointed at Gateshead.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)