

In the wards one is struck by the happy and contented appearance of the patients, albeit the beds are closer together than is desirable either for the welfare of the patients, or the convenience of their nurses, but all this will be changed when the new buildings are complete, when there will be much more space available and accommodation for about 600 patients. The surgical work is good, about 360 major operations having been performed last year.

Many operation cases are received, partly because the infirmary is some distance from any general hospital, St. Thomas' being the nearest, and partly, I am told, because the patients prefer to be in an institution where there are no students. The theatre, which was not specially built for the purpose for which it is now used, is well furnished, and has an operating table under which are slid brightly polished copper tanks, filled with hot water, so that the danger of shock is reduced to a minimum. Miss Marquardt attends the operations, and when I called upon her at about five o'clock, had been in the theatre the whole day, with a short break for lunch. One realizes as one talks to the Matrons of our large Metropolitan Infirmarys, how much rests in their hands, and how great are their responsibilities. Not only so; one sees how varied are their interests, and how personal and human their relations to the hundreds of patients and nurses with whom they are brought into close daily contact. The position is one which affords scope for great usefulness, whether one regards it from the educational, the organizing, or the humanitarian point of view. It is matter for congratulation that these posts are now filled mainly by earnest women, who realize their responsibilities, and Miss Marquardt is no exception to the rule, for she grasps not only the special duties of her office, but the fact that if the best is to be achieved, nurses in common with other professions must take counsel with one another, and co-operate together. It is consistent with this belief that she has joined the Matrons' Council, and supports the principles for which it stands.

I must not omit to mention the circular wards at the Camberwell Infirmary, as it is the only poor law institution where they are to be found.

M. B.

The Downfall of Tammany.

The defeat of the Tammany candidate for the Mayoralty of New York will be welcomed by every citizen who loves a pure municipal government, and the success of Mr. Seth Low, the Reform candidate, is death to the present corrupt and degrading system whereby social evil of the most horrible type is unblushingly turned into a source of official revenue and political power.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR



The Queen has become an annual subscriber to the funds of the East London Hospital for Children, Shadwell.

Alderman Sir W. P. Treloar, 69, Ludgate Hill, makes an urgent appeal for funds for the annual entertainment in the Guildhall of the poor children of the City of London and for the distribution of Christmas hampers to some five thousand little cripples. Every year the number of crippled children increases, while the prolongation of the war makes the task of collecting the needful money to meet the expenses still more difficult. Donations, large or small, should be addressed to 69, Ludgate Hill.

The annual meeting of the Hospital Saturday Fund was held on Saturday at the Mansion House. The Lord Mayor presided. He said, appealing as the fund did to working men, it was doing good work, as that class knew the benefits of the hospitals of the Metropolis. It was gratifying to learn that it was proposed to instruct working men in the effects of tuberculosis. The fact that the income of the year 1900 was £20,387 showed that the fund was appreciated by those whose desire it was to help themselves. The total distributed was £17,698, which had only been twice exceeded in the history of the fund. Thirty-six general hospitals received £6,557, fifty-seven special hospitals received £4,932, and others £6,209. Of the 1,165 people sent to convalescent homes 812 were sent with free letters and 353 had paid £354. The number of receipts issued from the head office was 12,980, and the average amount of each receipt was £1 11s. 3d. The number of letters of recommendation was 26,203.

The Prince of Wales' Hospital Fund proposes to commemorate the Coronation by freeing all the Metropolitan Hospitals from the liabilities which so seriously cripple their sphere of usefulness. Would that it could accomplish such an aim. To begin with, St. Bartholomew's will be grateful for £700,000 to buy up the Christ's Hospital site. The London, Guy's, and St. Thomas's need a quarter of a million, to say nothing of the smaller fry. However, in spite of the "war" excuse, we hope the appeal will bring in a big round sum, and that all the needy charities may receive a coronation cheque.

The reconstruction of the basement of Charing Cross Hospital, which necessitated the closing of the hospital from the middle of July to the end of September, has now been completed. A large and airy kitchen, with the newest and most efficient apparatus for cooking by gas and steam has been provided. In addition to the kitchen a scullery, two new larders, and two new store rooms and a commodious servants' hall have been constructed, to which must be added a workshop for the engineering department adjoining the new boiler house. Two new boilers were placed in position at the end of last year. The accommodation thus provided will serve for the whole hospital when it is completed.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)