

tion, adopt a new course. "If Mahomed will not go to the mountain, let the mountain go to Mahomed." Purda-ladies will not go to hospitals and dispensaries; they will not consult lady doctors outside their "purdas," then let all the advantages of skilled medical attendance that can be administered to such ladies in their homes, be given to them freely in their homes. Surely a system of house visitation could be established. Just as European ladies now ask for and obtain the services of doctors in their homes, so might purda-ladies do likewise. Let the hospitals and dispensaries do their work for the poor and distressed among the lower classes of our Indian sisterhood, for it is they, and they only, who will attend them. Banish the idea of expecting purda-ladies to resort to such places. Attach a larger staff of lady assistant surgeons to each hospital and dispensary as "home visitors" for purda-ladies, and make it possible for these to have the consultative help of the more experienced and better qualified "lady doctors" whenever need arises. Money spent in this way would soon be recouped, as it would enlist the sympathy of the better classes of our Indian fellow-subjects, and secure their subscriptions and donations towards the support of the Fund. It might be reasonably expected also that well-to-do purda-ladies should pay certain fixed fees for the home attendance of lady assistant surgeons and lady consultants. So far as the supply of medicines is concerned, the chemist shops, and *not* the Dufferin Fund Dispensaries, ought to meet this demand. On principle, the Fund ought not to bear the cost of providing medical attendance to the rich; but since the Fund was established with the definite aim of "providing" medical aid to "the women of India," the Fund is bound to make the supply not only possible and thoroughly efficient, but it is also bound to adopt such policy as will harmonise with, and not be obnoxious to, the customs and the prejudices of the many classes of people for whose particular and peculiar benefit it was called into existence by its noble benefactress and founder.

Guy's Hospital.

Miss Hodges, the Assistant Matron, before leaving the Hospital to take up her duties as Matron of the Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle, was presented by the members of the Nursing and Administrative Staff, with a pretty silver tea-service and oak tea-tray; a brass and copper tea-kettle by one of the senior Nurses, and a pair of silver salt cellars and spoons by the servants, as an expression of esteem for her work whilst among them, and as a token of their sincere wishes for her happiness and success in her new work.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

On Saturday last the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York laid the foundation stone of the Maternity Home in Rose Park, Adelaide, which is to be a memorial to Queen Victoria. His Royal Highness said that it was just such a memorial that the late beloved Sovereign would have desired.

Mr. Henry Greenway Howse, F.R.C.S.Eng., M.S. and M.B.Lond., senior surgeon, Guy's Hospital, has been elected president of the Royal College of Surgeons of England; and Mr. Thomas Richard Jessop, F.R.C.S.Eng., L.S.A., J.P., consulting surgeon, Leeds General Infirmary, and Mr. F. Howard Marsh, F.R.C.S.Eng., surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, were elected vice-presidents for the ensuing collegiate year.

The triennial festival dinner, marking the seventy-third anniversary of the Royal Free Hospital, was held on Monday evening at the Hotel Cecil, under the chairmanship of the Earl of Dartmouth, vice-president of the hospital. The chairman was supported by the United States Ambassador, and the company, which numbered 140 ladies and gentlemen, included Mrs. Garrett Anderson, M.D. (Dean of the Women's Medical School).

The toast of "The Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine for Women" was proposed by the United States Ambassador, who said the subject of a school of medicine for women was not new to him, as he believed it had originated on the other side of the Atlantic. It was reserved to a woman, Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, to set the first school in motion, and in 1849 she was the first woman to receive the degree of doctor of medicine. Since 1877 the history of the school had been one of continual progress and increasing strength, and it had now 300 pupils. Its record was exceeded by no other institution, and its pupils were known all over the world. Mrs. Garrett Anderson replied, mentioning that endowments for chemistry and physics were much needed. The Secretary afterwards announced a subscription list amounting to £4,000, including 100gs. from the chairman, who stated that an anonymous donation towards the hospital had been received.

In response to the recent appeal of the Council of Management of Friedenheim Hospital, Swiss Cottage, for £10,000 to enable them to build a home for their nurses, and to carry out some necessary alterations and repairs, the Duke of Bedford has forwarded £100, Sir Frederick and Lady Wills £500, and Mr. W. W. Astor £1,000.

On Monday the beautiful new hospital of St. John and St. Elizabeth, formerly in Great Ormond Street, now situated in St. John's Wood, was opened by the Lord Mayor, and is an institution with an interesting history and deserving of support. The object of the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)