

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The Governing Body of the Metropolitan Hospital (Saturday Fund) have fixed Saturday, October 11th, as the date of their twenty-ninth annual "special" collection in aid of the medical charities of London. The ordinary weekly collection in the industrial establishments, &c., however, which constitutes the main source of the fund, will be continued until the end of the year. The total income for 1901 reached £21,547. Since the foundation of the movement a sum of £325,053 has been collected and distributed among the hospitals and dispensaries.

The opening of a Nurses' Home at Stoke Workhouse calls attention to the great developments which have taken place in recent years in connection with the administration of Poor Law business in the Stoke-upon-Trent Union. When the present clerk (Mr. C. Daniel) entered upon his office there were only two nurses for the whole of the inmates, who then numbered some 500. Now there are nearly 1,000 inmates, and the staff of nurses for whom the Home has been provided at present numbers twenty-four, the accommodation being for thirty. Nothing could show more strikingly the great advance which has been made in regard to the care of the sick poor in workhouses during the last thirty or forty years. Recently, too, the Guardians have opened Cottage Homes, by which they are enabled to remove children from the precincts and environment of "the house" and provide them with something of the comforts and surroundings of home life. From the humanitarian point of view the advances which have been made are a credit to the Guardians.

After years of struggle for and against rebuilding the Royal Infirmary at Manchester on the present central site, the Board of Management has resigned, the Trustees having refused to adopt a report that the infirmary should be rebuilt where it now stands. The opponents of this policy are forcing forward a demand that the new infirmary shall be built without further delay at Stanley Grove, near Owens College and the Medical School.

An interesting paper on Isolation Hospitals was read by Mr. Percy Worthington, M.A., F.R.I.B.A., at the recent Congress of the Sanitary Institute at Manchester. He classified these hospitals as follows:—(1) Large urban hospitals; (2) hospitals of a smaller class serving a smaller town or country district; (3) small isolation wards connected with a large institution—e.g., asylums, workhouses, &c. The first and last of these will almost always be in the vicinity of other buildings; the second may and should stand perfectly free in the open country. Local Government Board requirements provide that no buildings may be within 40 ft. of each other or of the boundary. The paper treats of the classification and isolation of patients, and should be read by all who are interested in hospital management.

The Homes for Nurses, which have been erected on a commanding site near Conon Railway Station, have been formally opened. The buildings have been erected by the contributions of Ross-shire people at home and abroad as a memorial to the late Sir Kenneth S. MacKenzie, Bart., of Gairloch, who laboured all his life for the welfare of his native county.

The new eye and ear hospital which is now building on the Adelaide Road, Dublin, is assuming large proportions, and will when completed rank as one of the handsomest of its charitable institutions. The situation is open, and the fine frontage towards the Canal makes a great improvement as compared with the waste piece of ground which now it occupies. The claims of the hospital are urged with earnest zeal at this moment, in order to realise the benefit of a sum conditionally offered towards this new building, and there is little doubt that all who study the increased good work it will accomplish in enlarged surroundings will aid in the effort. The road on which the Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital is situated was called after Queen Adelaide, the wife of William IV., and was known a century ago simply as the Old Circular Road, being part of the boundary ground that encircles the city. It was then devoid of houses or churches, and was almost in the country.

In an article on postural diseases, in connection with the effect produced upon the body by faulty positions, the *Family Doctor* observes that the influence of habit and occupation in causing hitherto obscure, slow, and chronic diseased conditions is gradually obtaining general recognition. Comparatively few people know how to sit, stand, or lie correctly. No doubt sciatica, premature decay, pain and weakness of the lower limbs, could be ranked, in part at least, as the effects of postural disease. Faulty positions in sitting and standing also interfere with breathing and digestion.

There is mentioned in *Science Siftings* an apparatus for killing flies by electricity. It looks somewhat like a gridiron, placed vertically, with a horizontal shelf hanging beneath. The "gridiron" is composed of wires which are connected with an electric battery, and the wires are so close together that a fly alighting can hardly fail to stand upon at least two of them at once. The wires being alternately negative and positive, the insect, by the mere act of alighting upon the machine, completes a circuit and is instantly killed. At intervals the horizontal shelf may be removed, and the dead flies brushed off.

A new convalescent ward which has been given by Mr. William Moore to the Barnsley Beckett Hospital in memory of his late wife was recently opened. The ward, which provides excellent covered accommodation for convalescents when the weather will not permit them to be out of doors, also serves the purpose of affording covered connection between the Cooper Nurses' Home and the main part of the hospital. It is 100 ft. long by 10 ft. wide, and composed largely of glass. It has been provided by the donor with a number of Ikley couches.

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