

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The King has contributed 100 guineas and the Queen £100 towards the cost of a new operating theatre at the West Norfolk and Lynn Hospital.

The Annual Festival of the Royal Scottish Hospital in aid of the funds of the Corporation will be held at the King's Hall, Holborn Restaurant, on Monday, December 1st, under the presidency of the Right Honourable the Earl of Elgin.

The annual report of the Metropolitan Asylums Board states that the cases of infectious diseases notified during 1901 numbered 40,361, as compared with 35,247. They included 18,381 scarlet fever cases, 11,968 diphtheria cases, 190 cases of membranous croup, 3,194 cases of enteric fever, 20 cases of typhus fever, 48 cases of continued fever, and 1,760 cases of small-pox. Of small-pox, 1,743 cases were admitted, and 257 ended in death. The report traces the history of the epidemic of small-pox. As to the cost of the epidemic, it is stated that this was, of course, considerable. So far as the Board was concerned, if the cost were taken at the round figure of £500,000, the amount, though it looked large, was not so in reality, having regard to the enormous area and population concerned. Dealing with the general work of the Board, the report points out that the managers have under their care an average daily population of something like 15,000 persons. The whole of this community has to be housed, fed, and, for the most part, clothed. The annual cost for coal is £62,000; for food, £170,000; and for clothing, £45,000. The total expenditure for the year was £867,607, of which £21,658 was for the boys on the training-ships, £177,312 for imbeciles, £400,025 for the infectious sick, £16,859 for children of various classes, and £219,419 for general expenses, including head-office salaries and expenses and repayment of and interest on loans.

The Metropolitan Asylums Board have adopted a report of the Works Committee recommending that the scheme prepared by Messrs. T. W. Aldwinckle and Son for the remodelling of the administrative block, and the erection of new staff quarters, receiving rooms, isolation wards, and four new two-storey pavilions at the South-Eastern Hospital, at an estimated cost of £76,000, be approved, and the plans forwarded to the Local Government Board for their formal sanction.

It is hoped that the Queen or some member of the Royal Family may be successfully asked to visit Manchester early in the new year, to open the new St. Mary's Hospital for Women now approaching completion. The hospital is a fine, commanding building, and perhaps the finest maternity and women and children's hospital in the kingdom. It now only remains for completion that funds may be forthcoming for the provision of furniture and internal equipment; which, having regard to the large proportions of the new building, it is obvious will entail a considerable additional outlay.

Leicester Coronation Festivities Committee has handed a balance of £393 to the local infirmary.

The Mayor of Folkestone, the Earl of Radnor, has presented to the chairman of the local Victoria Hospital a cheque for £200, representing the amount of the mayoral salary for the year, to be utilised for the purposes of the hospital.

The Riviera Memorial to Queen Victoria is to take the form of a well-endowed Cottage Hospital. Up to the present time practically the only institution of this kind available for sick English-speaking patients are the public town hospital of St. Roch and the Asile Evangélique, the French Protestant Nursing Home. Both these have many drawbacks and defects, the former being quite inadequate, both in accommodation and staff, to the needs of so large a town, and being, of necessity, conducted on most rough and ready principles, while the latter, a small well-managed institution, is rigidly sectarian, and inaccessible to Catholics. The Victoria Memorial Cottage Hospital will fill the place at Nice that has been so well provided for at Cannes by Sunnybank Hospital. It will be non-sectarian, and will be devoted to Anglo-Saxons, whether rich or poor. The preliminary arrangements are in the hands of a strong local committee, at whose head is the new and energetic Consul, Mr. Alec McMillan. The site for the institution has not yet been chosen, but, in all probability, it will be on one of the sunny Cimiez slopes where the late Queen spent so many happy hours.

Mr. Peter Coats, who has always been a generous patron of Paisley Royal Alexandra Infirmary, contributing largely to its building fund, and erecting a palatial home for the nurses, has again placed the community under a debt of gratitude. To improve the amenity of the Infirmary, he has acquired a large portion of ground adjoining the infectious diseases block, cleared away the house on it, and gifted it to the directors as a part of the Infirmary grounds.

Grey's Hospital, Maritzburg, is to be brought up to date, and put on a footing more in keeping with the purpose for which it exists. It has hitherto been managed by a Government Board, the Government medical officer and a resident assistant surgeon constituting the entire medical staff, to the exclusion of other city medical men who might have private patients in residence. It is mainly due to the exertions of these gentlemen in the Maritzburg branch of the South African Medical Association, presided over by Dr. O. J. Currie, that the hospital bids fair to be brought more into line as regards equipment and efficiency with sister institutions in South Africa.

Dr. Low has started for England from Mombasa. He considers the result of the Sleeping Sickness Commission very satisfactory. The other doctors engaged on the Commission will leave in two months' time.

The Punjab Government is meeting with none of the native opposition that was feared in connection with its stupendous scheme for inoculating the whole population of the province against plague. Several native regiments have voluntarily presented themselves in a body for inoculation.

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