

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The King has sent a donation of £100 to the funds of the National Sanatorium for Consumption, Bournemouth, which is in very urgent need of additional contributions to meet expenses.

Sir Vincent Kennett-Barrington, of the London Metropolitan Asylums Board, recently inspected the Bellevue Hospital, New York, and was impressed with the speediness of the ambulance service. He told an interviewer: "Our ambulances are too slow. That is the first fault I will remedy when I return." Not before time.

"A Hospital Manager" argues that the London voluntary hospitals relieve the rates, and urges the remission of rates on hospitals; thus these institutions would not be "rate supported," and managed by a public Board, but "rate relieved," and still privately-managed institutions. This form of argument does not appeal to common-sense. If the hospitals intend to retain their present independent position, their cost must be kept up by voluntary contributions, and they must pay their rates like other business concerns. Once attempt to run with the hare and hunt with the hounds and they are bound to be gobbled up by the State sooner or later.

In 45,000 cases where anaesthetics have been administered at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, death has resulted in only five cases.

Mr. John Thomson has been appointed chairman, Mr. Neville Clegg deputy chairman, and Mr. F. W. Peel treasurer of the Manchester Royal Infirmary.

With much rejoicing the Chapel of the Royal Victoria Hospital at Netley was reopened recently. The improvement in the building is most manifest, and it is evident that much care and consideration has been given to the scheme of colouring.

Among the newly-dedicated gifts were an oak and hammered-iron cover for the font, given by an officer's mother in memory of an only son who died of his wounds at Netley in July last, a baptistery carpet given as a thank-offering, a pair of brass altar vases, and a very handsome brass alms bason, each given by mothers in thanksgiving for health restored to their soldier-sons, and an elaborately-carved oak hymn-board, presented by the choir. A pair of massive brass altar lights were given at Whitsuntide, 1901, as a thank-offering by a colonel in the Army on his return from the campaign.

At Netley it always seems as if the sick and wounded—who as soon as they can possibly get there, through the Sunday and other services—forget their suffering in God's House, for they verily sing with mighty effort, and join more than heartily in chants and responses.

The Leeds General Infirmary will, on the termination of a certain life-interest, receive the income

derivable from a sum of money, which is placed by the *Yorkshire Post* at £150,000, under the will of Mr. Christopher Samuel Weatherill, a deceased Leeds tradesman.

The fortune is stated to have been bequeathed to the testator's only surviving relative, a sister, for use during her lifetime, with the proviso that it shall afterwards pass to the infirmary. Among the conditions of the bequest is one that the principal may not be touched.

Dr. Yorke-Davies writes in the *Gentleman's Magazine*:—"I went over Dartmoor prison a few weeks ago, and I quite envied the convict his happy, peaceful home there. So much food do they get (of the wrong kind for strength and energy) that they do not walk, they waddle; and this is not to be wondered at as they get 32 oz. of farinaceous food a day—six times more than really necessary. Then the nice cells, good bed, plenty of magazines and books, soap, yes, and even tooth-brushes!"

Perhaps Mr. Justice Bigham thought this luxurious existence too good for Mrs. Penruddocke.

Dr. Donald J. Mackintosh, Medical Superintendent of the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, has issued a preliminary report on the accommodation and equipment of the County and City of Perth Royal Infirmary, which has been circulated among the directors. The report, we understand, shows that drastic measures will require to be adopted to modernise the present building, and the question which the directors will have to consider will be whether it will not be better to build a new Infirmary altogether than to go to the cost that will be necessary to have it properly remodelled.

Madame Patti's voice is "underwritten" for £1,000 a performance, or for £8,000 for total loss of voice. Only twice, it is stated, has she drawn the insurance.

It is said that Kubelik, the violinist, has insured his right arm for £10,000. We wonder what a leading surgeon values his right arm at, considering it brings in an income of more than that sum.

Lock-jaw, resulting from a scratch on the thumb sustained while pruning a rose-tree, has caused the death of an East Finchley gardener.

The apparatus for chemical and bacteriological research presented by Mr. H. S. Wellcome will shortly be installed in the Gordon Memorial College at Khartoum. Dr. Andrew Balfour, of Edinburgh, has been appointed by the Sirdar to the directorship of scientific work. Having regard to his reputation as a bacteriologist, it is certain that he will make good use of the opportunities afforded for the study of tropical diseases, especially malaria and dysentery, which are distressingly common in the Soudan. Dr. Balfour leaves England on December 11th.

On the order of the War Minister the German railways are to construct seventy special trains to serve as ambulances in war time. The first of them has just been tried at Cologne. It is composed of a saloon, containing eight beds, and an operating chamber, another for the staff, and a third for instruments, &c.

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