

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The King has promised to continue the subscription of £20 which Queen Victoria paid annually to Charing Cross Hospital.

On the occasion of the King's Hospital Sunday visit to St. Paul's, the City Corporation will contribute 100 guineas to the offertory.

At a Local Government Board inquiry held at Midhurst recently, Mr. Taylor, engineer to the King's Advisory Committee, stated that the King's Sanatorium for Consumptives, to be erected at Midhurst, was expected to be in occupation two years hence. The institution would provide accommodation for 150 patients and fifty officers, and its cost would be between £50,000 and £60,000.

At a meeting of the Council of the Metropolitan Hospital Sunday Fund, last week, the Lord Mayor announced that, except at St. Paul's Cathedral, where, by the King's desire, the collections would be taken on Sunday, the 7th, the collections for the fund would be made on the 14th prox. He had also to state that Mr. George Herring had again offered to contribute £25,000, provided that £100,000 was raised in the various places of worship. The whole deficiency of the London hospitals, provided that they were kept under the control of this and similar funds, and all extravagance checked, amounted to £250,000 per annum. It meant that if the Hospital Sunday Fund could raise £100,000 yearly, King Edward's Fund £100,000, and the Hospital Saturday Fund £50,000, there would not be the slightest need for rate assistance. So far, so good; but when the Lord Mayor went on to say that "If the banks and the limited liability companies generally could make up their mind to contribute towards one of the three funds for assisting the hospitals the deficiency of £250,000 would soon be made up, and there would be no need for individual appeals on the part of the hospitals," he was merely supporting the "Trust" principle, which would place absolute power over the general hospitals in the hands of a non-elected Board, and thus deprive the public and the patients of all power of effective criticism, a condition of affairs dangerously autocratic even in these reactionary days.

At the festival dinner of the Metropolitan Hospital, held at the Hôtel Métropole, Lord Howard de Walden in the chair, it was announced that the amount of donations received was £6,006, including £1,000 from Viscount Portman and £1,000 from the Chairman. The hospital is doing very good work in a poor and needy district.

The fifty-first annual general Court of Governors of the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, was recently held, the Duke of Fife (president) in the chair. The annual report and accounts were presented, and the Chairman in moving their adoption announced the result of the Imperial Coronation Bazaar held at the Royal Botanic Gardens last year, and opened by

Queen Alexandra, which produced a net profit of £18,985. He reminded the Governors of the debt of gratitude which they owed Mr. W. W. Astor for his munificent gift of £50,000, which was to be devoted solely for the purchase of a site and the erection of a new out-patients' department in order to provide for the increasing number of out-patients, which now reached 600 daily. The Chairman desired to make it quite clear that this gift of Mr. Astor's was in no way to be spent on maintenance, and that the Committee needed every assistance in providing funds for the support of the hospital. He congratulated the Governors on the increasing endowment fund, which now amounted to £49,066, and impressed on them the importance of raising that fund to the necessary minimum of £200,000. The motion having been seconded was carried. Mr. Arthur Lucas moved that the proceedings of the Committee of Management be confirmed. In moving the resolution he referred to the question of rating hospitals, which weighed heavily on them all. The income of the Ormond Street Hospital had grown, but so had the rates. While during the first ten years of its existence the hospital had been paying £55 of rates per annum, last year they paid no less than £903. This meant that out of every pound sterling given by benefactors one shilling had to be handed over to the London County Council. Mr. E. Owen seconded the resolution, which was adopted. A special vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Astor for his splendid gift.

Under the direction of the Children's Committee of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, a new institution for children suffering from ophthalmia has been erected at Swanley. It is to be known as the White Oak School. Accommodation is provided for 360 youngsters. The site comprises about fifty acres, and the building contract was accepted at the sum of £112,324. Each cottage, of which there are thirty, accommodates twelve children and a house-mother, and there are quarters for the medical staff, nurses, matron, also schools, infirmary, laboratory, and isolation hospital. A large number of ladies and gentlemen interested in Poor Law administration accepted the invitation to inspect the institution on Saturday, over which they were conducted by Sir Robert M. Hensley, chairman of the Metropolitan Asylums Board. When they had assembled in the senior school, Mr. Henry Chaplin, M.P., formally declared the White Oak School open, observing that he believed that this was the first time in this country that provision had been made, not only for proper medical treatment of children suffering from ophthalmia, but for combining with it the imparting of the ordinary education. Such an institution could not fail to be of immense advantage.

The seventh Medical, Surgical and Hygienic Exhibition will take place at the Queen's Hall, Langham Place, W., during Whit-week, from Tuesday, June 2nd, to Friday, June 5th, inclusive. The newest inventions and preparations in all departments of medicine, surgery, hygiene, and the allied branches will be on view, and the exhibition promises to eclipse the successes of former years. The BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING will, as usual, be represented.

According to Dr. E. Duncan, the President of the Scottish Cremation Society, prejudice against cremation is rapidly giving way in Scotland.

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