

rolled his optics in a manner that would surely be denied to all who were not possessed of a lofty and in part realised dream of true symmetry. There was real harmony in the young man's step as he regained his instrument, and with uplifted tapering forefinger bade us beware the trying and absolutely final half-minute. "Now, *please*, gentlemen," he said, with a delicately soft and endearing modulation of voice that touched us one and all, and that made us feel that we must remain as still and rapt as so many wax figures, even if he were manipulating a Maxim gun instead of a camera.

The proofs arrived after a fortnight's anxious waiting, and everybody said they were admirable. Several outsiders, the Secretary and the Matron for instance, purchased copies for themselves. The porters all took one home, and I have one in my office in the basement. I prize it, too. The man among us who does not is wanting in heart and in imagination. Hospital porters, and hospital messengers, and hospital stewards are humble folk, but all have hopes and aims and sympathies that in their rude way may rise if they loyally stick together and have their photographs taken every May underneath the trees in which the sparrows twitter.

CHARLES CUTTING.

St. Thomas's Hospital.

A large sum has recently been spent by the Governors of St. Thomas's Hospital in structural alterations and additions, and last week, when they made their annual inspection of the institution, this included the new operating theatres, the children's wards, and the casualty department. The theatres, which we have already described, are second to none; the children's wards, the walls of which are decorated with beautiful illustrations in coloured tiles, are also charming. On Monday in last week the new casualty department was opened for the reception of patients. In this, by means of Key's system of ventilation, the air is filtered and forced into the rooms at the required temperature and exhausted again by mechanical means. An X-ray and lupus-light department has also been organised and is now in operation. But in spite of the large sum spent on improvements during the last six years the Governors contemplate the expenditure of a further sum of £120,000 in order to bring the building up to date. Amongst the proposed improvements are a new Nurses' Home, a power station for steam, lighting, and hot water, a new out-patient department, and the re-arrangement of the sanitary system. There will also be an additional fifty-two beds for non-paying patients provided, as it is proposed to provide fresh accommodation in the new buildings for the paying patients now housed in St. Thomas's Home. So far the Governors have, unfortunately, been unable to invest

much of the money provided by legacies, as the greater part of the income from this source is absorbed in current expenses. Happily, however, when the Gassiot bequest is fully realised, it will enable the hospital to defray the cost of the proposed improvements, and also a great part of the expense resulting from them; but if the work of the hospital is to be efficiently maintained, the revenue from subscriptions and legacies will have to keep up to the present level.

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



Her Royal Highness Princess Louise Duchess of Argyll will visit the Princess Louise Hospital at Alton on July 16th. Arrangements for the visit are being made by the general officer commanding the First Army Corps. The Alton Urban District Council has agreed to call a public meeting to arrange a suitable reception for Her Royal Highness.

The poudré quadrilles at the Royal fancy ball, which takes place on July 9th at the Albert Hall in aid of the Charing Cross Hospital, are all French and English, in honour of President Loubet. In the peeresses' quadrille all the dancers will be dressed from old pictures of the Sir Peter Lely or Sir Joshua Reynolds period, and they will dance the quadrilles to a minuet measure, and not in the hurried fashion which obtains to-day. Princess Louise (Duchess of Argyll) is inviting her personal friends to bring parties to this ball, which promises to be a great success.

Sir John Gorst will follow up his speech the other day on the subject of physical deterioration of school children by a question in the House of Commons. He will ask the Secretary to the Board of Education if the Board will institute an examination into the physical and mental condition of samples of children taken from London schools, similar to that instituted in Edinburgh and Aberdeen by the Royal Commission on Physical Training (Scotland).

The Dundee branch of the British Medical Association has decided that the School Board should have at its disposal the services of a medical officer.

Mr. J. C. Hawkshaw, President of the Institution of Civil Engineers, stated recently that smoke pollution cost London probably £5,000,000 a year, and must eventually result in the destruction of the fine collection at Kew.

It is reported that the municipal funds instituted by the East-end Mayors in support of the quinquennial appeal of the London Hospital are making steady progress.

We observe that the expenditure of £600 on paper roses to decorate the Albert Hall for the London Hospital Ball is condemned as a "catch-penny trick" by a well-known weekly. It does seem a huge sum, but it is to be hoped someone benefited by the making of

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)