

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



In a special appeal on behalf of the Victoria Hospital for Children, of which he is president, Earl Cadogan calls attention to the critical condition of the hospital. The districts served by it contain a population of over 100,000 children, and the urgent need of increasing the present accommodation may be gathered from the fact that there are only forty-two beds now available to meet the requirements of the 1,000 children who seek relief in the out-patient department every week. In July last Princess Louise Duchess of Argyll laid the foundation-stone of a new hospital on an adjoining site belonging to the institution. The new building will contain 106 beds, suitable isolating accommodation, and a new operating theatre. In order to assist the Committee in raising the £30,000 that will be necessary to complete this addition the trustees of the Zunz bequest offered to add a further sum of £3,000 to their previous handsome donation on condition that the Committee raised £22,000 by the end of last year. It is to be hoped that this much-needed donation may not be lost, and that Earl Cadogan may be able to announce that the whole sum required has been contributed, and that the Committee are in a position to claim the welcome offer.

As a memorial of their son, the late Dr. Seymour Graves Toller, Mr. and Mrs. Toller, of Scarborough, have established at St. Thomas's Hospital a prize to be maintained in perpetuity and given annually to the fifth year's student first in the examination in medicine. Dr. Seymour Toller was formerly assistant physician at St. Thomas's, and at the time of his early death in Egypt was physician to the Kasr-el-Aini Hospital at Cairo. The Governors of St. Thomas's Hospital have decided to name a new children's ward the "Seymour Ward," after their late colleague, and for its decoration Miss Jewesbury has painted eight picture panels to be affixed to the walls.

Owing to funds being much needed for the Metropolitan Hospital, Kingsland Road, the Ladies' Association have decided to hold an "Advertisement" ball at the Empress Rooms, Royal Palace Hotel, Kensington, on Tuesday, February 10th.

The Chelsea Hospital for Women has received a bequest of £1,000 from the estate of the late Mr. Francis Thomas Freeman, allotted under the discretionary powers of the executors.

Mrs. Samuel Lewis, with her well-known generosity, has recently given £500, and promised an additional £500, to the building fund of the Hospital and Home for Incurable Children, 2, Maida Vale, London.

We understand that it has been decided to raise a memorial to the late Sir Frederick Perkins in Southampton, in the shape of a new ward at the Royal

South Hants and Southampton Hospital, to be called the Perkins Emergency Ward.

Visitors to Westcliff-on-Sea have recently been much interested in a strange-looking craft lying off the shore or cruising round the coast. The vessel is a motor hospital, which is used for the treatment of cases of phthisis. She floats upon two torpedo-shaped cylinders, and although electricity is the motive power, she is also equipped with sails which could be used in the event of the engine becoming disabled. She is very comfortably furnished, and the opportunity afforded to patients of inhaling health-giving ozone while enjoying varied change of scene will doubtless make this form of treatment very popular. The motor hospital hails from America, the design being that of a doctor who had some acquaintance with automobilism. It has quite fulfilled the expectations of its inventor.

We are glad to hear that the bazaar recently held on behalf of the Women's Hospital, Sparkhill, Birmingham, realised £1,000, and that the plans for the new building are proceeding apace. It is hoped that the new hospital will contain about forty beds in addition to those at the Convalescent Home. As the population of Birmingham is 820,000, it will be seen that even with the increased number of beds there must be a great demand on them. At present many patients have to wait twelve or even eighteen months before they can be admitted, causing serious and sometimes fatal suffering. We hope that the liberality of the citizens of Birmingham will enable the Committee of Management to make adequate provision for the care of women's diseases. Under the able management of the Matron, Miss Richmond, the supporters of the hospital may be assured that the patients admitted receive every care and attention.

Telegrams from Manila assert that cholera is epidemic all over the Philippine archipelago. The deaths in Manila alone average thirty daily. Between the beginning of last year and the end of October there were 100,000 cases, 65,000 of which were fatal.

Cholera is spreading over the whole of Egypt. The disease has already attacked more than 1,200 towns and villages, and it increases so rapidly that there are 1,500 cases daily. During the last two months there have been more than 26,000 cases, of which more than 90 per cent. have resulted fatally. Many Europeans are stricken down.

Having heard various communications concerning the plague, the Medical Congress, which has just terminated at Cairo, finds it necessary to revise the international rules applying to this disease, and it has expressed the wish that an International Congress shall meet forthwith to lay down rules in accord with science.

The Transvaal Administration will shortly take measures for the prevention of malarial fever, which is, however, often the result of carelessness on the part of the sufferer. In this connection it is interesting to note that the management of the Ayrshire Mine in Mashonaland makes it a rule to discharge any employé who contracts the disease through not taking proper precautions.

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