

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



Australians frequently receive kindly reminders that the Prince and Princess of Wales have not forgotten the land where they received so enthusiastic a reception during the Royal Tour. The Princess has just forwarded a handsome donation to the Melbourne Children's Hospital towards the maintenance of a cot which bears her name.

The Medical Officer of Health for the Port of London, Dr. Williams, reports that the outbreak of enteric fever among the boys on board the training ship *Cornwall*, off Purfleet, caused by the use of infected blankets from South Africa, has terminated. From April 8th to August 17th sixteen cases were notified. At the request of the ship's authorities five of the sufferers were removed to the Port Sanitary Hospital at Denton, near Gravesend, with a view to save the expense of maintaining a hospital on shore. It was due to the vigilance of the Port Sanitary officers that the disease was in the first instance traced to the use of blankets which had been in hospital in the late South African campaign, and the seizures of blankets made at the docks and other places followed their action. At the St. Katharine Docks seventy-nine bales of blankets were seized, and at the East India Docks sixty-two bales in a similarly filthy condition were discovered.

The rule under which a soldier was either well enough for duty or was ordered into hospital is now to be altered, and a soldier reporting himself sick, who, in the opinion of the medical officer, is temporarily unfit for the performance of all his duties, but for whom treatment in hospital is not essential, will be ordered to attend at the hospital or inspection-room at such times and for such period as the medical officer may consider necessary. Furthermore, while a soldier is attending hospital, only the commanding officer, acting on the recommendation of the medical officer, may relieve him from all duties or employ him on such duties and fatigues in barracks as he is capable of performing. Under the new arrangement malingering is provided against by the rule that no soldier, while attending hospital, will be permitted to leave barracks; nor will he be permitted to enter the canteen, either while attending hospital or while a convalescent on light duty, unless the written permission of the medical officer has been given.

By the kindness of the directors of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, the magnificent new steamer *Moldavia* (the largest vessel in their fleet) will be open to inspection by the public, at the small charge of 1s., on Friday and Saturday, the 18th and 19th instant, in aid of the funds of the Seamen's Hospital Society (*Dreadnought*), Greenwich, and Royal Albert Dock. The *Moldavia* is lying in the Tilbury Dock, and leaves London for Bombay on her maiden voyage on the 25th instant.

Mrs. Eastwood, wife of Ald. Eastwood, J.P., of Tapton, Chesterfield, has presented a sum of £1,000

to the Chesterfield Hospital. The amount has been paid to the credit of the endowment fund. It will be remembered that two years ago Ald. Eastwood purchased the Durrant Road Board Schools, and presented them, altered, fully furnished, and fitted up; to the hospital authorities for the treatment of medical cases.

The statistical report of the in-patients of the General Hospital, Birmingham, for last year is a carefully and elaborately compiled publication, and shows what a large amount of work is carried on in this great hospital in the centre of the busy capital of the Midlands. During 1902, 5,226 in-patients were treated by the hospital and 67,745 out-patients.

Miss Marianne Frances Hasker, of 61, Eversfield Place, St. Leonards-on-Sea, bequeathed some £50,000 for charities, among the institutions thus benefiting being the Earlswood Asylum for Idiots, the Church of England Society for Waifs and Strays, the Poor Clergy Relief Corporation, the Brompton Cancer Hospital, the United Kingdom Beneficent Association, the East Sussex Infirmary, the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, St. Mary's Hospital, the London Hospital, Charing Cross Hospital, King's College Hospital, the Royal Hospital for Incurables at Putney, the Samaritan Free Hospital for Women and Children at Marylebone, and the Chelsea Hospital for Women.

Dr. J. H. Bartlet has offered to provide in connection with the East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital a department devoted to the out-patients with suitable consulting rooms, separate waiting-rooms for male and female patients, with all necessary arrangements for the satisfactory carrying on of the work, the building to be erected in the present hospital grounds, but detached from the main building. Dr. Bartlet's original offer was to provide the building in a central part of the town, but the medical staff fear the difficulties in the way of carrying on the work of attending out-patients away from the hospital. Therefore, though the donor, who was himself a member of the medical staff for many years, has given much consideration to the subject, he has respected the opinions of the present staff and consequently modified his offer.

A question of general interest was recently brought up at the Southport Infirmary. A girl was admitted with the consent of her friends for a minor operation. It is asserted that two or three more operations were performed without the knowledge and express sanction of the friends, and eventually the girl died. The friends consider that they should have been communicated with, and the medical staff appear to hold that permission to operate once covers subsequent operations. From all points of view it is desirable to acquaint relations with the fact of an impending operation.

An epidemic of plague has broken out at Bonde, in the northern end of New Caledonia. It is attributed to the squalid and filthy conditions under which the natives live. Out of sixty-two cases there have been fifty-two deaths. Strict measures have been taken so that other tribes may have no contact with those affected, and the early extinction of the plague is expected.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)