

## Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



AT CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL.—No one can dance with pleasure on an indifferent floor, so certain devotees of Terpsichore, friends of Charing Cross Hospital, mean "to trip the light fantastic toe" in the resplendent Whitehall Rooms at the Hôtel Métropole on Thursday, December 10th, to raise a fund for the renewal of the floors in the old wards of the hospital, rightly thinking that a good floor is even more necessary in the sick ward than in the ball-room. Her Royal Highness Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, the active President of the hospital, accords approval and patronage to the function.

AT THE LONDON HOSPITAL.—The Lord Mayor (Sir Marcus Samuel), accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, visited the London Hospital on Monday last for the purpose of presiding at the unveiling of a memorial tablet which has been erected in the Princess Royal Ward in connection with the endowment of beds. The tablet bore the following inscription: "£1,000, to name each of the beds in this ward, each given by the donors whose names are above the beds, in response to an appeal made to the citizens of London by the Right Hon. Sir Marcus Samuel, Bart., Lord Mayor of London, 1902-3, to mark their gratitude to their Majesties King Edward VII. and Queen Alexandra for visiting the Hospital to open the Out-patients' Department, June 11th, 1903. This tablet was unveiled November 2nd, 1903, by Sir Marcus Samuel, Bart., who also gave a dinner at the Mansion House in aid of the Hospital during his Mayoralty."

Before inviting the Lady Mayoress to remove the screen covering the tablet, Mr. Sydney Holland, chairman of the hospital, said there never had been a Lord Mayor who had done so much for the hospital as Sir Marcus Samuel had accomplished, and he knew from frequent interviews he had had with the Chief Magistrate that it had been a labour of love with him. It was by the Lord Mayor's personal influence that the beds in that ward had been named. After the Lady Mayoress had released the screen, Mr. Holland announced that the quinquennial appeal had amounted to £129,000, £21,000 of which had been obtained by the personal influence of the Lord Mayor.

AT KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL.—The Governors of King's College Hospital have authorised the Joint Committee appointed by the Council of King's College and the Committee of Management of the hospital to act for them in all matters appertaining to the removal. With the approval of the President, the Duke of Cambridge, the Committee have issued an appeal for £300,000 to build and equip the new hospital, which is to be built on a suitable site of twelve acres in South London, presented to the charity by the munificence of a single donor.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL.—The North London or University College Hospital in Gower Street has received as a donation from the estate of the late Professor Tyndall the sum of £500, presented by Mrs.

Tyndall in accordance with the wish of her late husband.

THE METROPOLITAN HOSPITAL SUNDAY FUND.—The Committee of the Metropolitan Hospital Sunday Fund intends to convene a conference of secretaries of London hospitals to consider the question of out-patients, this being a matter that has an important bearing on hospital administration, not only here, but in the country. "What constitutes an out-patient?" is a query the answer to which varies with different hospitals, for at some places an out-patient ticket only lasts a month, while at another institution it may extend to six weeks, or even three months. Moreover, the cost of the out-patients' department has first to be deducted from hospital expenditure before the cost of the in-patients is arrived at; and the Committee desires that, as far as possible, and especially with hospitals of the same character, there should be some uniformity in defining the former class of patients. This is the more important because the tendency of recent years has been for the expenditure on in-patients to steadily increase. Last year the average cost per week of each in-patient treated at twenty-one of the principal London hospitals amounted to £1 16s. 6½d., compared with an average of £1 13s. 1½d. in 1897, and £1 12s. 3d. in 1892. Although at first sight the increase in the ten years of 4s. 3½d. per week per occupied bed does not appear very great, nevertheless it represents in these twenty-one hospitals alone an additional expenditure of over £44,000.

AT THE COVENTRY AND WARWICKSHIRE HOSPITAL.—A cheque for £1,725 has been handed over to the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital as the result of a collection by the working classes of Coventry and district. This proves how highly the patients appreciate the institution.

THE WESTERN INFIRMARY, GLASGOW.—The total sum received to date towards the erection of a new wing at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, is £28,593 4s. 1d., while the amount required to enable the managers to proceed with the work is between £60,000 and £70,000. It appears from the appeal now made that, while there is only cubic capacity in the wards for 416 patients, during the past year the number of beds fully occupied was 432. The number of patients at present waiting to obtain admission is 376—many of them urgent cases. The managers therefore earnestly ask for funds to provide this increased accommodation, which would enable them to meet the demands made for admission and allow of their admitting cases of urgency without overcrowding.

AT SIR PATRICK DUN'S HOSPITAL, DUBLIN.—The Lord-Lieutenant and the Countess of Dudley recently paid a visit to this popular hospital. Each patient received lovely flowers and kind inquiries.

THE HÔPITAL DES QUINZE-VINGTS.—The Hôpital des Quinze-Vingts in Paris, which is to disappear, is, next to the Hôtel Dieu, the oldest hospital in that city. It was founded by St. Louis in 1254 for the benefit of 300 noblemen whom the Saracens had deprived of their eyesight and whom the King brought back from Palestine. Since then it has been used as an asylum for the blind, and the number of inmates has considerably increased.

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