

## Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



AT THE METROPOLITAN ASYLUMS BOARD.—At an ordinary meeting of the managers of the Metropolitan Asylum District held on Saturday a letter was read from the metropolitan branch of the Incorporated Society of Medical Officers of Health enclosing copies of resolutions passed by that body in reference to the provision of sanatoria for London consumptives, stating that the Society were unanimous on the subject, and that, with two exceptions, the whole of the twenty-nine London, City, and borough medical officers of health agreed with the Society's opinion. In the resolutions the opinion was expressed that, by reason of its practical experience in regard to the provision of hospitals and the treatment of the infectious sick, the Metropolitan Asylums Board was eminently qualified for the discharge of the duty referred to, the effective performance of which by any competent authority could not fail to be attended with great advantages in the interests of public health. The letter was referred to the General Purposes Committee for consideration and report. A long discussion took place upon a report presented by the General Purposes Committee recommending that the Board's ambulances should be placed at the service of the public for the general conveyance of persons of unsound mind and of medical cases and surgical cases, the cost of the proposed service being covered by a charge of 7s. 6d. for each single journey by a one-horse ambulance within the metropolitan area. It was stated that of the sixty metropolitan boards of guardians and City and borough councils, thirty-three supported the proposal, and sixteen were averse to it. Various amendments were moved, and, in the result, the recommendation was referred back to the General Purposes Committee for further consideration and report. Hitherto the ambulance work of the Board has been practically confined to moving infectious cases to its own or other hospitals. It has no legal power to convey non-infectious patients to the general and other hospitals. Imbecile patients are conveyed to Tooting Bec Asylum for medical examination, and distributed from there to other asylums, a certain number of the Board's vehicles being reserved for this purpose. With the machinery at its command and system already established, however, the Board could undertake general ambulance work (non-infectious patients) for the public, and at a much cheaper rate than is now being paid. Under the Metropolitan Asylum Board's scheme 7s. 6d. will cover the entire cost of moving a patient to any institution within the metropolitan district. No new buildings will be required, but it may be necessary to add to the staff and equipment of the stations should work for the general public be undertaken.

AT CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL.—The new Levy ward at this hospital was opened last week by Miss Matilda Levy, the founder, in the presence of a number of relatives and friends. This ward was originally founded in 1885, and contained five beds, all endowed in memory of late members of the Levy family. Owing

to recent improvements the old ward was pulled down and a new and larger ward was constructed. This ward now contains twelve beds, and is, like its predecessor, intended primarily for female patients of the Jewish faith, but is not restricted to them. Miss Matilda Levy signalled the opening of the new ward by endowing three more beds in memory of members of her family who have died since the previous endowment. In moving a vote of thanks to her, Mr. T. P. Borrett, the chairman of the Board of Governors, read a telegram from Princess Louise Duchess of Argyll, the president of the hospital, asking him to convey her thanks specially to the generous donor.

AT THE ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE CHEST.—A grant of £200 has been made to this hospital from the Goldsmiths Company.

AT THE HOME OFFICE.—A conference was recently held at the Home Office between representatives of coalowners and miners in England and Wales with reference to the outbreak of ankylostomiasis (miners' worm disease) in British mines, for the purpose of determining what steps should be taken to prevent the spread of the disease. The following conclusions were arrived at:—

1. That the time has not arrived for the promulgation of special rules.
2. That it is desirable that local conferences should be held in each district between the owners and miners in order to agree on the best measures to be taken.
3. That a recommendation should be made to the Secretary of State that, in the event of his attention being called to any mines which are seriously suspected of being affected, arrangements should be made for an examination of them.
4. That the Secretary of State should be asked to circulate information as to the disease, its diagnosis, treatment, &c., to medical practitioners in mining districts, and also, in a more popular form, to the persons engaged in the mining industry.

AT THE STOCKPORT INFIRMARY.—It seems strange that the Stockport Infirmary should be the most highly-rated institution of the kind in the North of England. At the recent monthly meeting the Chairman was able to announce that the Stockport Assessment Committee have reduced the assessment, but, even so, the assessment was £4 9s. 8d. per bed, whereas other similar institutions, taking about forty or fifty infirmaries in the North, averaged about 25s. per bed. It was pointed out that the infirmary was now assessed at £400, while the workhouse, about four times as large, was only assessed at £700, and the Manchester Infirmary at a little over £700.

AT BIRMINGHAM.—Dr. Huxley, the well-known Birmingham physician, is agitating on behalf of the hospitals in the city against the striking of "Big Brum," the council house clock, whose boom can be heard for miles round. At one hospital the Matron declares the patients are kept awake half the night by "Big Brum." It is proposed to ask the authorities to stop the chimes between midnight and six in the morning. During the recent musical festival the clock's chimes were suspended.

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