

ings was originally the old High School, which was erected in the sixteenth century—or, to be exact, in the year 1578. A second school was erected on the same site in 1820. It was at Infirmary Street that Sir Walter Scott received his early education, and here also were educated three Chancellors of England—Wedderburn, Erskine, and Brougham—who were natives of Edinburgh. In 1828 the disused school-house was sold to the managers of the Royal Infirmary for £7,500, and was adapted to form part of the surgical hospital. The building remains unchanged to the present day, and looks on to the Cowgate. It was when the present Royal Infirmary was opened, about thirty years ago, that the old infirmary was taken over by the Corporation and turned into a fever hospital.

## Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



AT DUBLIN.—The Earl and Countess of Dudley have paid visits to the Royal City of Dublin Hospital and Mercer's Hospital during the past week, the Lady Superintendent accompanying them round the wards. The Sisters met them at the ward doors, and were presented to their Excellencies. At Mercer's Hospital they were shown the records of the hospital, which date back as far as the year 1734.

Another interesting document to which their Excellencies' attention was drawn also was Handel's music of the "Messiah," which was first performed in aid of Mercer's Hospital. Before leaving, the Lord-Lieutenant and Countess Dudley signed their names in the visitors' book.

CHRIST'S HOSPITAL AND BART'S.—The Sites Committee of Christ's Hospital, having had an interview with the officials, have agreed to sell the whole of their vacant land in Newgate Street to the Government for the purposes of Post Office extensions. This decision needs only to be ratified by the Council and by the Treasury. The purchase has a very serious aspect for St. Bartholomew's Hospital extension scheme, for it is obvious that unless the hospital can get a portion of the site from the Post Office the most recent plan for rebuilding is not possible. Some conclusion will, doubtless, be arrived at at the next meeting of Governors.

A HOSPITAL BUILDING ACT.—In the opinion of the eminent architect, Mr. Albert W. Moore, the "tedious discussions which the case of St. Bartholomew's Hospital has brought into existence would have been obviated if there existed a proper Hospital Building Act like the London Building Act and the local by-laws, which embody the requirements of the Public Health Acts for regulating the erection of commercial and domestic buildings on proper lines. The accepted conditions of hospital construction being diametrically opposed to overcrowding, the high ground values prevailing in the heart of London would make enlargement on proper lines impossible, the natural result of which would be that the broader policy of decentralisation or removal to more useful spheres of operation would meet with urgent and reasonable consideration."

AT "KING'S."—We are authorised to state that the donor of the site on Denmark Hill for the new buildings of King's College Hospital is the Hon. W. F. D. Smith, M.P., who is the chairman of the Removal Committee. The proprietors of the *Daily Telegraph* and Mr. Harry Lloyd, of the *Daily Chronicle*, have each promised a donation of £500 to the Removal Fund, and the Secretary has just received a letter from the trustees of the Annie Zunz Fund, intimating that they are going to contribute £10,000 in aid of the removal of the hospital to South London.

AT THE LONDON.—At a Special Court of Governors of the London Hospital, held recently, Mr. J. H. Buxton, who presided, remarked that since the last report of the House Committee, the huge re-building of the hospital had almost been completed. The new nurses' home—the necessity for which was apparent when it was seen that to-day 100 nurses lived outside the institution—had been begun, and the total cost of that would be £40,000. New Hebrew wards would be opened at an early date. Towards the cost of these Mr. Raphael had sent a further contribution of £10,000. Donations had been received, among others, from Mrs. Butler of £1,000; "J. R.," £1,000; Miss Druce, £50; the Borough of Stepney, £399; the Borough of Bethnal Green, £118; and G. T. Jones, £50. The number of patients in the hospital discharged cured or relieved during the past three months was 2,840, and the number of patients treated in the out-patients' department during the same period was 20,000. The Chairman further stated that they were very proud of the work the hospital was doing. It was the most beautiful hospital in the kingdom. Their wants were great, and he appealed to the rich for financial aid.

COST OF HOSPITAL PATIENTS.—The report presented at the annual meeting of the Metropolitan Hospital Sunday Fund showed that the amount collected this year—£64,975—was the largest since the fund was started. Some interesting details were given showing the average cost per week of each patient treated at twenty-one of the principal hospitals in the metropolis. In 1897 the cost was £1 13s. 1½d., but in 1902 this had risen to £1 16s. 6½d., representing an increase of £44,000 in expenditure.

AT BRISTOL GENERAL HOSPITAL.—Mr. Joseph Storrs Fry, head of the firm of J. S. Fry and Sons, has given a Christmas donation of £1,000 to the Bristol General Hospital, of which he is chairman.

AT THE BURNLEY VICTORIA HOSPITAL.—A timely windfall has come to the Burnley Victoria Hospital in the shape of a legacy of £8,000 under the will of the late Mr. Robert Muun, for many years registrar of births and deaths in the borough. Of the £8,000 one-half will form part of the endowment fund, and the balance go for the general purposes of the hospital in accordance with the directions contained in the will.

The new military hospital which has for some years been building on part of the Millbank site next the Tate Gallery is now nearly complete; it will be furnished with 225 beds.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)