

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE "BART'S" APPEAL. — The Worshipful Company of Mercers has voted a second donation of £1,000 to St. Bartholomew's Hospital. The Bishop of London will preach in aid of the Rebuilding Fund of this hospital, by permission of the Dean and Chapter, in St. Paul's Cathedral, on Sunday morning, July 24th. Among recent contributions to the fund have been a promise of Messrs. Arnold and Sons, of West Smithfield, to fit up an operating theatre with all necessary appliances, and the sum of 500 guineas, voted by the Grand Lodge of English Freemasons. The suggestion that old St. Bartholomew's men should raise a sum towards the Rebuilding Fund has met with approval, and many gentlemen have intimated their willingness to act as local secretaries. An endeavour has been made to ascertain what portion of the new buildings would chiefly appeal to the minds of old and present students, and the consensus of opinion appears to be in favour of the Pathological Block, the approximate cost of which, with fittings, would be £15,000. It is proposed that every St. Bartholomew's man shall raise the sum of £5 towards this particular object. We hear the nursing staff is also anxious to give a helping hand and do something "all their own" for the new Nursing Home. Nurses are far from rich, but they have so many friends amongst those who have means, and come in contact with so many influential people one way or another, that it should not be a difficult task for the "Bart's" League to raise a handsome sum. There are many ways of doing this, once a committee is formed to consider the matter.

THE METROPOLITAN ASYLUMS BOARD. — The Managers of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, upon the report submitted by their Finance Committee, have asked the ratepayers for a sum which is less by ½d. in the pound than last year. Dealing with the question of staff, Mr. A. C. Scovell said: It was not possible to make reductions in the staff in proportion to the falling-off in the number of patients. He wished to enter a protest against the remarks of some no doubt well-meaning, but extremely ill-informed, critics who had instituted comparisons between the expenditure on the Board's hospitals and that on the general hospitals of London. The functions of their hospitals differed essentially from the functions of the general hospitals. Thus the writer of a leading article in the *Times* on April 7th last year said:—"The hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Board are habitually half-empty, because it is necessary to maintain them on a scale adequate to cope with an epidemic, and epidemics, fortunately, are not always with us. One reason why they are not always with us is furnished by the prompt and complete provision made by the Asylums Board for the reception and isolation of infectious cases; and hence the hospitals, by their very excellence, and by the excellence of the ambulance and other arrangements subsidiary to them, exert a very powerful influence in preventing any excessive prevalence of the evils which they were designed to meet. But the comparative security thus

gained is not sufficiently established to permit the Board materially to diminish the scale of its preparedness."

THE QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S HOSPITAL. — The annual meeting of subscribers of Queen Charlotte's Hospital was held recently. The report stated that there had been large increases in the numbers of both in-patients and out-patients, 1,444 women having been admitted to the hospital and 1,577 attended at their own homes during the year. The expenditure had amounted to £5,495, but the ordinary income (including a donation of £500 from King Edward's Hospital Fund) was £4,500 only. In consequence of the continued increase in the number of patients, the Committee desired to enlarge the Nurses' Home at an estimated cost of £2,000.

THE LIVERPOOL SCHOOL OF TROPICAL MEDICINE. — The value of the work done by the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine is unquestionable. We regret, therefore, to learn that the school, which is entirely dependent on public support, is very much in need of funds. Writing on the value of the work done by the school in West Africa, Sir William MacGregor, Governor of Lagos, says:—"My attention was first directed to this question in 1874, when I found myself brought face to face with many diseases peculiar to the tropics, and discovered that my knowledge of them, though I had been a diligent student at two great Universities, was sadly deficient." A special school of tropical medicine, he continues, is precisely what is required to meet the defects in medical education that for so many years he felt to be really very serious. He concludes:—"It is surely the duty of the Imperial and Colonial Governments, and also of the citizens of the Empire, to find the money needed for your purposes. To succeed you have only to show how good your cause is."

Sir Ralph Moor, late High Commissioner for Southern Nigeria, wrote saying:—"My service in West Africa dates from 1891, when the conditions of life and general circumstances as affecting health were very different to those of the present day. Efforts were then made by enthusiastic medical officers of the local staffs and administrators to grapple with those terrible foes to European life—tropical diseases—but the time of the former was too much occupied in dealing with the actual cases of disease to make systematic scientific research as to their causes and the means of prevention, and though the latter possibly succeeded in improving to some slight extent the hygienic and sanitary conditions, it was not until the establishment of the London and Liverpool Schools of Tropical Medicine in 1898-9 that thorough scientific investigation could be systematically undertaken, and means provided for special study and instruction in the subject. Since that time great strides have been made, and there are definite prospects that with a continuance of the work in the spirit in which it was inaugurated European life in the tropics may be guarded against its most insidious foes, and that diseases peculiar to the natives of such regions may be successfully combated."

ILLUMINATED ADDRESS FOR A DOG. — Prince, the well-known Mid-Cheshire Infirmary dog, is to have his services recognised in a tangible form, by being made the recipient of an illuminated address from the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)