

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



RURAL HOUSING AND SANITATION.

—By permission of Mrs. Charles Schwann a drawing-room meeting was held last week at 4, Prince's Gardens on behalf of the Rural Housing and Sanitation Association. Mr. Charles Schwann, M.P., who presided, spoke of the great difficulties and delays experienced in getting defects of sanitation remedied, and urged the necessity of legislation for the removal of the defects in the Housing Acts which impeded the efforts of those who desired to put them into operation. He pointed out that in Ireland the Labourers Act had been adopted by many of the unions, and by that means many cottages had been built for the agricultural labourers. The meeting was also addressed by Mr. Herbert Samuel, M.P., Dr. Seaton (Medical Officer of Health for the County of Surrey), Mr. E. A. Brotherton, M.P., and Miss C. Cochrane, member of the Sanitary Institute.

BART'S REBUILDING FUND.—Sir Frederick Lucas Cook, M.P., and Mr. Wyndham F. Cook have each contributed £1,000 towards the St. Bartholomew's Hospital Rebuilding Fund. St. Bartholomew's "men" have already subscribed £4,859 3s. 6d. to the General Appeal Fund, and £490 18s. 6d. to the special fund for the new Pathological Block.

A LOSS TO ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.—Sir Lauder Brunton, M.D., F.R.S., has resigned his appointment as physician to the hospital, and the institution and medical school thus lose the services of a most distinguished physician. Sir Lauder has been presented by his past and present house physicians with a beautiful silver loving-cup, as testimony of the great esteem in which he is held by all who know him. Dr. Ormerod now becomes physician, and Dr. H. Morley Fletcher assistant physician, to the hospital.

THE HOME HOSPITALS ASSOCIATION.—Presiding at the annual meeting of the Association, held at Fitzroy House, Sir Henry Burdett said that the Association was founded twenty-three years ago to show that a hospital in London conducted on the paying patient principle was capable of being carried on with financial success and meeting the demand for a hospital where the citizens of London could receive hospital treatment on payment of a certain fixed and moderate charge. They had rebuilt the home hospital in Fitzroy Square at a cost of some £12,000, because they were sure that the existence of Fitzroy House was essential to the well-being of a large number of the better class of the metropolis. They had asked for the support of those who had benefited or might benefit by the hospital, but the response to the appeal was not satisfactory. They had to make up about £8,000 towards the total cost of the new buildings. The appeal had been resented by some on the ground that the inmates might be regarded as objects of charity.

The Committee had determined not to make any more appeals, but to treat the matter on a business footing, to raise the money in a business way, and repay it by means of a sinking fund accruing from the profits earned by the hospital. In the past year they had made a profit of some £1,500, so that they might hope to liquidate their debt in about five or six years. They had had 415 patients in the hospital in the last eleven months, and the average length of stay of each person was 21.84 days.

The charitable public have shown their sense in not giving funds to a business concern which can make a profit of £1,500 a year—or at the rate of at least a guinea a week on each patient. If Fitzroy House is a charity, then let the Committee reduce the fees; if it charges the Home Hospital market price it is a commercial concern, and must stand or fall on its own merits.

HOSPITAL BENEFITS BY "TREASURE TROVE."—The Lincoln County Hospital has benefited to the extent of £25 as the result of a singular discovery by workmen. Councillor J. W. Ruddock recently purchased the premises of Messrs. M'Kerchar, and workmen were removing the fixtures when at the back of a drawer two of them found an old-fashioned match-box wrapped in brown paper. In the box were discovered twenty-five sovereigns, dating from 1820 to 1864. Mr. Ruddock took the treasure trove to Messrs. M'Kerchar's solicitors, but the date of the coins indicated that the money had been hidden there before Messrs. M'Kerchar became owners of the property. The solicitors, therefore, ruled that the late owners of the premises had no legal claim. Mr. Ruddock, however, declined to keep the money; but gave the workmen who made the discovery a sovereign each out of his own pocket, and forwarded the £25 to the hospital.

A WINDFALL FOR NEWCASTLE.—There has just died in Newcastle-on-Tyne Mr. George Handyside, a builder and property owner, whose estate is stated to be worth nearly £1,000,000, of which sum he has bequeathed nearly £100,000 to the Newcastle Infirmary and other local charitable institutions.

AN APPROPRIATE APPOINTMENT.—The Council of King's College has appointed to the Tooke Chair of Economics Mr. O. S. Loch, secretary to the Charity Organisation Society.

PLAGUE AT JOHANNESBURG.—A message from Johannesburg states that the plague has reappeared in the heart of the town. The patients have been removed to the special plague hospital, which is surrounded by a high fence.

RUSSIAN HOSPITAL TRAINS.—Colonel Gädke, writing from Harbin, says: Fourteen hospital trains are already in use on the Siberian-Manchurian line, and twenty others are being pushed forward in Europe. Each train contains from 170 to 220 beds. The trains are named after the grand duchesses, princesses, &c., conspicuous in the Red Cross service. Colonel Gädke, as in duty bound, is loud in his praises of Russian coolness, orderliness, and, at the same time, energy. The authorities have learned much, he says.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)