

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES.—The chairmen of St. Bartholomew's, Guy's, the London, St. Thomas's, St. George's, St. Mary's, Middlesex, Charing Cross, and Westminster Hospitals have signed a letter addressed to the Earl of Rosebery, Chancellor of the University of London, in favour of the recommendation of the Royal Commission that "the University should undertake the teaching of the preliminary scientific subjects of the medical curriculum."

DWELLINGS OF THE POOR.—Mr. Budgett Meakin, lecturing on Saturday night in Bermondsey on the housing question, showed a view of King's Walk, Southwark, the site of the old King's Bench prison, and went on to say that the little cells, of two rooms each, once occupied by the prisoners were now let at 6s. 6d. a week rent. A large house in Spitalfields, which 200 years ago was rented by Dr. Watts as a school for Nonconformist boys, was now let out in tenements. A house which had been built with sanitary accommodation for one family now had fifty-four occupants.

MORE SUPPORT FOR KING'S.—Lord Ashcombe has promised a donation of £500 in aid of the fund for the removal of King's College Hospital to South London.

AT GORLESTON HOSPITAL.—By the Secretary of the hospital at Gorleston, near Yarmouth, an instance of gratitude on the part of a patient was narrated at the annual meeting of the institution. A man was admitted to the hospital in practically a dying state; indeed, but for the skilful treatment he received at the hands of the medical staff and the care and attention bestowed on him by the nurses, he would probably now be lying in the churchyard. So grateful was the man that on leaving the institution recovered he set to work to collect money towards its funds. He succeeded in raising £10, which he forwarded to the hospital, a sum which more than defrayed the cost of his maintenance in the institution.

HOPE HOSPITAL NURSES' HOME.—The Nurses' Home in connection with Hope Hospital, which has been erected at a cost of nearly £12,000, was formally opened last week. The new building, which adjoins the hospital, provides accommodation for seventy-two nurses, and everything possible has been done to make it attractive. The nurses have hitherto occupied rooms on the top floor of the hospital, and their removal to the new building will, it is hoped, enable the Guardians to make certain improvements in the hospital itself. The Mayor of Salford (Alderman Stephens), who formally opened the Home, said the idea of giving nurses separate quarters such as those was one which commended itself to him very much. Nursing was a very arduous occupation, and he thought those who engaged in it were worthy of all consideration. He was glad to see such a splendid building, and considered it a credit, not only to themselves, but to the town in which it was.

THE LEWIS HOSPITAL, STORNOWAY.—An appeal for funds is being made in aid of the Lewis Hospital. Until 1896, when the hospital was opened for patients, there was no institution of the kind in the Island of Lewis; and this little building, with its two wards and twelve beds, is the only hospital in a district some forty miles long by thirty miles wide, a district of over 500,000 acres. In 1896 the population of the island was 27,500; it is now about 30,000. This population is widely dispersed, and composed mainly of crofters, cottars, and fishermen, whose means are barely adequate for their own support. As serving to illustrate the cosmopolitan character of the hospital, it may be mentioned that its doors are open to, and the skill of its nursing and medical staff are at the disposal of, all whose sufferings can be cured or alleviated. Indeed, there have been treated and cured there patients from all parts of the British Empire, and even beyond it. The financial position of the institution is a subject of much anxiety and concern to the management. While the Managing Committee gladly acknowledge several contributions from friends outside the island, there has not, since 1892, been any widespread appeal to the public, the institution being mainly dependent for its maintenance on the people of the island. Thanks to the liberality of two donors, a small nucleus of an endowment fund has been got together; but the revenue from this fund is quite insufficient to meet a quarter of the ordinary expenditure. As a proof that the hospital is doing good work, and of how it is being conducted, it may be mentioned that when their Majesties the King and Queen visited Stornoway in September, 1902, a patient was taken to the hospital from the Royal yacht. He remained under treatment thirty-eight days, and was discharged cured.

A NEW SANATORIUM FOR DAVOS.—A meeting was held at Davos recently, under the presidency of Dr. W. R. Huggard, British Vice-Consul, in aid of the scheme for erecting a sanatorium, to be known as the Queen Alexandra Sanatorium for Consumption. The Chairman reported on the acquirement of a site and other matters. Speeches were made in favour of the movement. About £6,000 has been collected in aid of the funds.

ISOLATION OF TUBERCULOSIS IN VICTORIA.—The Board of Health authorities of the State of Victoria have decided to treat consumption as an infectious disease, and to subject all sufferers from tuberculosis to complete isolation, and to what is practically social ostracism. The Department has arranged to accommodate numbers of consumptives at the quarantine station. It is stated that this is the first time that such drastic measures in respect to consumptives have ever been taken. In New York, Norway, and at Sheffield consumption is a notifiable disease, a regulation which gives good results.

PROFESSIONAL JEALOUSY.—Signor Ferriani has constructed a scale showing the varying degrees in which professional jealousy exists in different professions. The lowest place in this scale is assigned to architects; next above them come clergymen, advocates, and military officers; then follow, in order from below upwards, professors of science and literature, journalists, authors, doctors, and actors.

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