

## Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



We regret that, like others, we were misled by Dr. Buzzard's speech at the opening of the winter session at King's College Hospital, when we gathered that no experiments on living animals were to take place at the new hospital when opened at Camberwell. In an explanatory letter to the *Medical Press*, which criticised Dr. Buzzard for making what "looks remarkably like a public declaration that King's College Hospital appeals to the public for support on the grounds that it is free from the taint of biological experiment," he writes:—

"As regards experiments on living animals, such as inoculations, for diagnostic purposes, these have never been performed in King's College Hospital, but always in the appropriate laboratories at King's College. In view, however, of the greatly increased distance between the hospital and King's College, in the future it will obviously be necessary that provision should be made at the hospital for investigations of this nature. There was not the slightest intention, in the passage to which you take exception, to imply any antagonism on the part of the Council and medical staff to the employment of experiments on living animals."

Our hospital system is in a transition state. Soon we shall have hospitals for the sick supported by the State, and schools of medicine as distinct institutions. The old order changeth, yielding place to new.

The Treasurer of the Metropolitan Ear, Nose, and Throat Hospital acknowledges a donation of £50 and a banker's order for an annual subscription of the same amount, to commence on January 1st, 1905, from the Earl of Crawford.

The Duke of Westminster has allotted to charitable institutions £850 from the sum paid by visitors for viewing the house and gardens at Eaton. Chester Infirmary receives £450, and the remainder is divided between Chester, Rhyl, and New Brighton institutions in sums of from £10 to £70.

At the weekly meeting of the Manchester and Salford Hospital for Skin Diseases, Mr. G. Norris Midwood, the honorary secretary, announced that the trustee of the estate of the late Mr. Manassah Gledhill had decided to give a donation of £5,000, part of the residue of the estate, to the hospital, subject to a ward in the new hospital being called the Manassah Gledhill Ward.

Thanks to the initiative of Dr. G. M. Lowe, of Newport, the Isle of Wight will shortly be in possession of all the advantages of a modern eye, ear, and throat hospital. This will be a much-appreciated boon, and it is gratifying to add that the scheme has the approval of H.R.H. the Governor of the Isle of Wight, Princess Henry of Battenberg.

The Brighton Corporation have under consideration the provision of additional means for the treatment of consumptive patients, and it is proposed to set apart thirty beds at the Borough Sanatorium to be maintained

partly by private charity and partly out of a grant of £20,000 from a bequest of £30,000 made to the Corporation by the late Mr. Hedgcock.

In view of the steady increase, during recent years, in the number of diphtheria patients in Birmingham, and the fact that the outbreaks often occur in houses where effective isolation is impossible, the Health Committee have so extended their hospital accommodation at Little Bromwich as to permit of the reception of such cases of disease. The buildings have been erected at a cost of £20,000, and it is anticipated that the furnishing of the wards will be completed in the course of next week. These extensions comprise the provision of three permanent pavilions, an isolation pavilion, and a large block of buildings for the accommodation of nurses. It is proposed to devote the three pavilions, which, in the aggregate, will provide accommodation for about seventy-two additional patients, to the treatment of typhoid and diphtheria patients, and the "separation pavilion," if necessary, to the reception of infectious cases concerning the definite diagnosis of which there is some doubt. A leading feature of the new wards, which are 72 ft. long by 30 ft. wide, is the addition of a glazed wall tiling, forming a dado 5 ft. in height. The new home, which will accommodate fifty nurses, comprises bedrooms, large recreation-room, kitchen, &c., with an escape staircase from the upper rooms.

The patience required at a hospital is exemplified by an instance published in the current number of *Our Hospitals and Charities Illustrated*. "What is the matter with you, missus?" an oft-repeated question. "Well, sir, it's all come on since father died," is the somewhat irrelevant reply. "What has?" "What I'm a-tollin' yer of, sir. Father 'o used ter drink a good drop one way and another—" "Yes, yes, no doubt, but—" "Well, I didn't notice of it till 'e said ter me, 'Yer don't look well, and knowin' father, I didn't take no notice. Then—" "Come, my good woman, what's the matter?" "That's what I've come ter know (half-indignantly), thinkin', o' course, as yer could tell me!" After ten minutes' further questioning, the doctor is told that the seat of pain is—"Orl over me, sir." "But where—" "With a mighty effort the woman pulls herself together. "Pains inside, an' singing in the 'ead, no appetite, pains orl over me, sir. Legs, arms, eyes—but it's me 'eart as is the bottom of it!"

Berlin will shortly be able to boast that it contains the largest hospital in the world. The new institution, which is to be called, after the famous physiologist, the Rudolf Virchow Hospital, will be fitted with accommodation for 2,000 patients. When fully equipped it will have a staff of 650 physicians, nurses, attendants, and servants. In connection with the hospital there will be a pathological and anatomical laboratory, bath-house with medico-mechanical institute, section for Röntgen appliances, and a separate building also for apothecaries. Hitherto the largest German hospital was that at Eppendorf, near Hamburg, with accommodation for 1,600 patients. The size of the new Berlin hospital may be best shown when compared with the London Hospital, with 780 beds, and the Marylebone Infirmary, with 744.

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