

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



Princess Louis (Duchess of Argyll) has given her patronage to an afternoon and evening concert which will be held at the Northern Polytechnic Hall, Islington, on Thursday, November 17th, by the Ladies' Association of the Great Northern Central Hospital, Holloway, to meet the cost of the new operation theatre and the new medical electrical installation now under construction.

The Mayoress of Liverpool (Lady Hampson) recently laid the foundation stone of the new buildings of the Liverpool Infirmary for Children, Myrtle Street, an institution first established in 1851. The infirmary, opened in 1869, has for some years proved insufficient for the demands made upon it and the necessity for increased accommodation has urgently forced itself on the attention of the Committee. In 1899 there was an outbreak of infectious disease with sickness amongst the nurses. In spite of closing the building and thorough disinfection, there was another outbreak in 1900, and as structural alterations were reported as necessary, eventually it was decided to build a new structure on the old site.

Lady Ludlow has promised to open the new nurses' home, erected in the grounds of the Cancer Hospital, Fulham Road, S.W., on the 14th inst., at three o'clock. The nurses at present are accommodated at the top of the hospital building in cubicles. The new home will provide separate bed-rooms for each nurse, and separate sitting-rooms for the sisters and nurses. The cost of erecting and equipping the home is about £5,500.

The establishment, on the suggestion of the Mayoress of Dover (Lady Crundall) of a "pound day" in aid of the local hospital has proved very successful. On the appointed day a sum of about £83 in cash, in addition to some hundredweights of provisions, was received at the hospital, which had the appearance of a country store.

At an inquest recently held at Wealdstone respecting the death of an artist who poisoned himself, the jury returned a verdict of "suicide while temporarily insane." The coroner (Mr. Reginald Kemp) complained at the conclusion of the inquest that these verdicts were far too common. The sooner juries returned a proper and sensible verdict the better it would be. We agree with the Coroner's remarks. It is unquestionable not only that suicide is on the increase, but that a large number of persons take their own lives deliberately and with intent, holding self-murder to be no sin. It is better to face the fact than to pass sentimental verdicts, against which the deceased person would, if he could, be the first to protest. While extreme mental distress is undoubtedly a cause of self-destruction, insanity, which implies mental disease, is probably not more frequently the cause of suicide than of homicide.

Dr. Daniel, Provost of Worcester College, has accepted the position of Treasurer to the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, an office which is by no means a sinecure.

Our Foreign Letter.

TORONTO GENERAL HOSPITAL—TRAINING SCHOOL FOR NURSES.

Report for Year ending on September 30th, 1904.

The 21st of October, 1904, is the Jubilee of a great event in the history of the nursing profession. It is

just fifty years ago to-day since Florence Nightingale sailed for the Crimea.

I am sure you will all agree that there can be no more fitting celebra-

tion of the jubilee of that very important and beneficent event than the occasion which brings us together this evening. In fact, we are a part of Florence Nightingale's work.

Preliminary training for nurses is, and has been for many years, engaging the attention of all who are interested in the cause of higher education, and are anxious to raise the standard of excellence in our various nursing-schools.

This work was first begun in Scotland a number of years ago, and at the present time has been inaugurated in all of the more advanced nurse-training schools in the United States.

Preliminary training for probationers, or prospective nurses, is carried on in some instances within the hospital, and at the expense of the hospital; in others, in connection with some existing educational body. While the latter method does not fulfil the requirements so fully, nor so nearly approach the ideal, it is encouraging to report that during the past year arrangements have been made with the Technical High School of Toronto, whereby those who are desirous of hospital training may be taught a certain amount of anatomy, physiology, hygiene, medical chemistry, dietetics, cooking and household economics, prior to their admission to the training-school. The course covers a period of four months—students working from 8 a.m. till 3.30 p.m. daily. During the past year eight students completed this course successfully, five of whom have already been accepted as probationers, while six students have been enrolled at the technical school for the term commencing October 1st.

Although sufficient time has not yet elapsed to make it possible to speak definitely regarding the ultimate advantage to be gained from this course, the fact remains that we have at least taken one step in the right direction.

The demand for special nurses, though considerable during the previous year, has increased very much during the past year. One hundred and fifty-five special nurses were employed in the hospital for 1,625 days during the previous year, while there have been 244 such nurses employed for 2,183 days during the past year, representing an increase of eighty-nine nurses for 558 days over the previous year. There have been 625 applications for admission to the training-school; forty-two of these have been accepted on probation, twenty-seven of which have been enrolled as nurses' and two have been dropped from the roll.

At the present time there are four probationers,



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