

SUGGESTED REFORMS.

The reforms suggested were of a modest nature: the amalgamation of the various Throat and Ear Hospitals, and the desirability of the removal of the Hospital for Women, Soho Square, to another site.

The meeting terminated after the adoption of the Report and the usual votes of thanks.

Grave Injustice to St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

Surely the Treasurer and Almoners of St. Bartholomew's Hospital must know of the antagonistic attitude of some of the chief officials of the King's Fund to their hospital, and we wonder at their laying themselves open to this public rebuff. We cannot affect to pity them, but resent the injustice with which this splendid old charity has been treated.

As to the question of inspection—until the King's Fund appoints experts instead of amateurs to inspect the metropolitan hospitals, the excuse for excluding "Bart's" on this ground is futile and flimsy.

With the exception of the medical department, our contention that the inspection is inadequate, holds good, and we call upon the Executive Committee to publish the names of the experts who visited the hospitals on behalf of the Fund this year. The eminent architects, sanitary inspectors, chartered accountants, chemists, trained nurses, and domestic economists, who are they? If they exist, their names have been kept a profound secret.

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The Royal Family have set a good example in that they have, one and all, made gifts in kind to the poor and needy this Christmastide. Many hearts will beat the happier for their remembrance on this great festival.

The Prince of Wales has consented to become a Vice-Patron of the Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, City Road.

Mr. Cecil H. Oliverson has given £500, and the Earl of Radnor £200, in aid of the fund for the removal of King's College Hospital to South London.

The North-Eastern Hospital for Children, Hackney Road, has received a donation of 100 guineas from Messrs. Mappin and Webb, Ltd., towards the £4,000 required by 31st inst. to prevent the closing of half of the wards.

The Cancer Hospital, Fulham Road, S.W., which was founded in 1851 for the free treatment of the necessitous poor suffering from cancer, tumours, or allied diseases, appeals for funds to meet recent heavy expenditure. Owing to the nature of the disease, the necessary expenditure of the hospital is very heavy, and each year some £4,000 or £5,000 have to be realised from the capital to meet all the demands. The committee has recently erected an electric lift, which was sorely needed, to enable the patients to reach the ground; and a nurses' home, to provide suitable accommodation for those who, in such a special hospital as this, have most trying duties to perform. These two additions cost between £5,000 and £6,000. Subscriptions or donations for the general account of

the research department will be thankfully received by the secretary, at the hospital.

The Church of England Waifs and Strays Society, Savoy Street, is greatly in want of assistance, and an urgent appeal is made by the Bishop of London, the President of the Executive, for the support of over 3,300 little ones now under the care of the organisation. There is a deficit of over £4,000 on the Society's general fund, towards which subscriptions and donations will be gratefully received.

The Executive Committee of the National Education Association has passed a resolution strongly condemning the action of the London County Council in not allowing the meeting of the Education Committee to be open to the public and the Press.

A meeting of the Committee for promoting a memorial to Sir William Banks, the eminent surgeon, of Liverpool, was held recently at the Town Hall of that city, when it was reported that £735 had been subscribed, and that an individual donation of £1,000 had been promised, provided it was applied in a certain direction in connection with the Royal Infirmary.

The new wing in connection with the Maternity Hospital in Castle Street, Aberdeen, which has been in course of construction for some time, is now getting on towards completion, and it is expected that the opening ceremony will take place very shortly. The new portion of the hospital will be fitted up in the most up-to-date manner. It contains eight extra beds, bringing the total number of beds in the institution up to twenty-two. Special wards for specific purposes are being fitted up, and excellent accommodation is provided. Altogether the extension of the hospital is a most important one.

At the far away Lewis Hospital at Stornoway, during the summer herring fishing season, numbers of outsiders engaged in various branches of the fishing industry receive help in sickness. The patients treated at the hospital comprise sufferers of all seafaring nationalities, and it is chiefly on this account that an appeal is now being made. In connection with the hospital a system of district nursing and visitation has been organised with the most gratifying results. The annual expenditure, amounting to over £600, is raised by voluntary contributions.

Dr. Samuel Smiles was one of the latest of Queen Victoria's birthday knights, but neither he nor Mrs. Smiles ever adopted their new titles. "I asked him the reason," Miss Constance E. Thomas states in an article entitled "A Glimpse of Samuel Smiles," which appears in the *Sunday Magazine*. "He gave it in homely fashion. 'You see,' he said, 'we have been 'the doctor' and 'Mrs. Smiles' to the servants for so long now—we can't ask them to take up with new ways.'"

The International Congress on Hospital Ships in time of war, now sitting at The Hague, has adopted without modification the draft convention drawn up by the committee. The convention was signed on Wednesday.

General Stoessel, after correspondence with General Nogi in regard to Japanese shells striking the hospitals in Port Arthur, has agreed to supply a plan of the hospitals' positions,

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