

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



At the request of Princess Henry of Battenberg, President of the Ladies' Association of the Hospital, the Lord Mayor has given the use of the Mansion House for a luncheon, at which he will preside, in aid of the North-Eastern Hospital for Children, Hackney Road, on the 22nd of May next.

The Archbishop of Canterbury preached last Sunday morning at the church of St. Philip, Stepney, locally known as the London Hospital church. There was a crowded congregation, among those present being the Hon. Sydney Holland, chairman of the hospital, some 250 of the sisters and nurses, and a large number of the patients, including not a few of the Jewish persuasion. At the close of the service, which was conducted by the vicar, the Rev. S. Vatcher, the Archbishop proceeded to the hospital, where he was conducted round the wards by the Hon. Sydney Holland.

The annual general meeting of donors and subscribers to St. Mark's Hospital for Fistula, City Road, E.C., was held on February 9th, at the Mansion House, E.C. In the unavoidable absence of the treasurer, Mr. Richard B. Martin, M.P., the chair was occupied by the senior member of the Committee, Mr. E. F. Carey. The sixty-ninth annual report, which was received and adopted, shows that the income of the hospital has been larger during 1904 than it has been for many years past. Out-patients have been required to contribute by small payments for dressings and drugs towards the expenses of the hospital, and £113 18s. has been collected from this source. Two paying wards opened last March have shown a return of £154 16s.; £829 has been received in legacies during the year, this being a much-needed increase of financial support. The Chairman spoke of the struggles which the Committee had experienced in their efforts to secure an adequate income, and was glad to report that by the strictest economy the cost per occupied bed had been decreased. During the year 516 in-patients had been treated, of whom 438 had been cured of the very painful and distressing diseases from which they were suffering. The usual votes of thanks terminated the proceedings.

We heartily congratulate the authorities of the Leeds General Hospital on its well-deserved good fortune. By the death of Mrs. Mary Ann Whitfield, of Leeds, the Infirmary is benefited to the extent of over £106,000. This is owing to the munificence of the late Mr. Christopher Charles Weatherill, of Leeds, who died on November 15th, 1902, and who directed in his will that the amount should, on the death of his sister, Mrs. Whitfield, pass to the General Infirmary. The "Weatherill Accident Ward" will now be founded and endowed at the infirmary, a marble monument will record the gift of the testator, and the surplus of the bequest will go to the fund for surgical appliances.

We regret to see from the annual report that the Cumberland Infirmary at Carlisle is nearly £1,000 in debt—not through any extravagance of management, but owing to the necessity for bringing the infirmary up to date in medical and nursing requirements. At the same time, the wail of Colonel Irwin that "probationer nurses used to be got for nothing, but now they got £8 a year, and the nursing Sisters cost £36 a year as against £24," appears a little unworthy. Surely cooks and kitchen-maids cost twice as much!

The committee of the Walsall Hospital has, we understand, received a letter from the Misses Thorpe, daughters of the late Mr. Joseph Thorpe, J.P., of Newport House, offering the sum of £2,000 for the purpose of erecting a special ward for children, to be called "The Thorpe Ward." The late Mr. Thorpe was for many years the chairman of the School Board, and was very closely connected with the work among the children in the town. The gift is a very acceptable one, and the committee are extremely fortunate in having, within so short a time of each other, received the gifts of two new wards.

The convalescent branch of the new buildings for the Birmingham and Midland Hospital for Women in Sparkhill was opened by the Countess Beauchamp last week. The Convalescent Home is a picturesque but unpretentious house of two storeys, the lower part of the façade being red brick, and the upper in white stucco. It has its separate garden, 1,900 square yards in extent, and will afford accommodation for twelve patients. It is planned with a centre portion and two wings. The main hospital forms a plain but pleasing line of buildings, in the Queen Anne style of architecture. The administrative block, a detached nurses' home and laundry, have their front to Showell Green Road.

The ceremony took place in the large ward of the west block, and there was a large attendance. Sir Hallewell Rogers, who presided, said there was no more important work in the city than the establishment, maintenance, and extension of our great hospitals. The present rebuilding of this institution would enable 1,000 patients to pass through the new hospital every year, as against 350 hitherto. It was, said Sir Hallewell, by such acts of sympathy from class to class that English society was bound together, and in this particular we were a great example to other nations. The Chairman mentioned that the work would cost £41,000, of which £33,500 had been already received and promised.

Mr. Nettlefold said that the hospital dealt with the third largest number of cases of any similar hospital in England, and when the new hospital was completed it would be the largest women's hospital in England dealing with the most serious cases.

A Grand Prix (highest award) has been conferred upon Burroughs, Wellcome and Co. for the pharmaceutical and other fine products exhibited by them at the Cape Town International Exhibition.

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