

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The Queen and the Princess of Wales have sent annual subscriptions of £5 5s. each to the British Home and Hospital for Incurables at Streatham.

From the accounts of the Hospital Saturday Fund for 1904, it appears that the total collection was £24,232—the largest annual amount yet realised in the history of the organisation, and £667 in excess of 1903. The Distribution Committee purpose to award among the different participating institutions the sum of £21,800. The Hon. Harry Lawson, M.P., vice-president of the Fund, has consented to preside at its annual dinner, to be held at the Holborn Restaurant on Saturday, the 28th inst.

The Royal Sanitary Institute has arranged for a conference on "School Hygiene" to be held at the University of London from February 7th to February 10th.

Dr. H. Timbrell Bulstrode has been appointed to represent the Royal College of Surgeons at the conference on school hygiene arranged by the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Dr. Ernest W. White, who has just retired from the post of Medical Superintendent of the City of London Asylum, which he filled for nearly twenty years, has been presented by the Visiting Committee of the Asylum with a gift of silver and an illuminated address. The presentation was made by Alderman Sir George Truscott, the Chairman of the Committee.

The regulations which the medical officer of health for the City of London has proposed for the registration of hairdressers within the City will come into force next month. The Hairdressers' Guild has convened a general meeting of members for the 24th inst., when certain sanitary proposals will be finally dealt with. The suggestion that all hairdressers should bring their businesses and apparatus up to a higher standard of sanitation in order that the public may be satisfied that there is little or no risk of infection has been generally approved throughout the metropolis and the country at large. The City's Public Health Department has prepared certificates which will be granted to persons who prove that they are entitled to them, and they will be displayed in the shops. The certificates will be renewed each year, and the register will be kept at the Guildhall.

M. Paul Cambon recently visited Brighton and laid the foundation-stone of the tower and extensive additions to the French Hospital Convalescent Home at Kemptown. The Home, which was established in 1898, at present accommodates sixteen convalescent patients from the French Hospital in London, and sixteen old French poor people. The building is being carried out from the designs of Messrs. Clayton and Black, architects, of Brighton. The ceremony was performed at a private gathering of friends of the hospital, and reference was made to the death of Dr. Vintras, who had been closely connected with the Home since its inauguration.

Mr. Harry Hems has presented as a New Year's gift thirty handsome new chairs for the use of visitors to the patients in the three wards forming the Victoria wing of the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital. Friends who have used the visiting hours for seeing their relatives and acquaintances in affliction have hitherto had little provision made in that way for their accommodation. Often coming from afar they have too frequently had to stand by the bedsides in lieu of being seated, for chairs are few, and it is against the "standing" rules for anyone to sit upon the beds. It was as long ago as 1875 that Mr. Hems realised how the patients suffered from the lack of easy chairs, no really comfortable invalid chair existing then in the whole institution. He presented half a dozen reclining ones himself, and, what was even better, so interested his friends in the matter that no fewer than thirty were procured, all of which have since done most useful service in the various wards. Perhaps the happiest work he has ever done for the hospital was to rescue from being broken up the now charming and valuable old chairs that at present grace the board room. These had for years lain in an outhouse amongst other apparently useless lumber, and remained there until Mr. Hems's eagle eye lighted upon them in their desolation. Chippendale chairs are at a premium in the market, and there is not one of them, as they now stand in the place of honour in the hospital, that would not fetch a £20 note in a London West-End sale-room. Upon a silver plate upon one of them is inscribed the following:—"These five chairs, made by Thomas Chippendale about A.D. 1743, are believed to be part of the original furniture of this board-room, and were restored as a tribute to the honoured dead who once sat thereupon, by Harry Hems, A.D. 1901."

Bristol Royal Infirmary is about to lose the services of its secretary and house governor, Mr. Richard J. Coles, F.C.I.S., M.H.O.A. (Lond.), M.C.S.A. (Birmingham), who has held the appointment since 1902, having been elected to the important position of resident secretary-superintendent of Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge. Mr. Coles, previous to his Bristol appointment, had held the position of assistant secretary, &c. (from March, 1895, to December, 1899), at the Warneford, Leamington, and South Warwickshire General Hospital. He was then elected secretary of that institution, without opposition, in succession to Mr. J. W. Warren, who had resigned owing to ill-health. Mr. Coles was appointed to Addenbrooke's Hospital out of 292 applicants, six other selected candidates including one from the London Hospital, one from St. George's Hospital, London, &c. He had first-class testimonials from the Leamington and Bristol institutions, and much regret has been expressed at his leaving the infirmary.

The plague which has broken out in the district of Gurieff, in the province of Uralsk, has assumed the pneumonic form, which is the most dangerous kind. There has not been a single case of recovery, in spite of the injection of Jersen lymph. Steps, however, have been taken which have resulted in stopping the progress of the terrible scourge by strictly isolating the centres of infection and the patients, and by the adoption of active measures of disinfection. The epidemic has claimed, in a month, more than 350 victims.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)