

## Reflections.

FROM A BOARD-ROOM MIRROR.



Princess Louise (Duchess of Argyll) has promised to visit West Ham early in October to open the new Medical Mission Hospital in Balaam Street, Plaistow.

Princess Henry of Battenberg opened on Wednesday last, at Shanklin, Isle of Wight, the cottage hospital which has been erected by Lord Alverstone in memory of his only son, the late Hon. Arthur Webster. The hospital, which has been provided as a gift to Shanklin, was formally handed over to the town by the Lord Chief Justice.

His Majesty's Government has decided to send two representatives to the International Congress on Tuberculosis, which will meet in Paris next month, and has accredited Dr. C. Theodore Williams and Dr. H. T. Bulstrode to attend the Congress as the British delegates.

The National Committee for the establishment of Sanatoria for Workers suffering from Tuberculosis is appealing to the public for £50,000 to provide the building and acquire the site for a first sanatorium for the accommodation of 200 patients. About £6,000 has already been promised, and a suitable site has been secured at Benenden, Kent. Princess Christian has promised to preside at an important meeting at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, on November 18th, and is sending an invitation to the mayors of the various towns of the United Kingdom to attend the meeting.

Lord Ludlow, treasurer of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, has received towards the rebuilding fund £100 from Mr. Meredith Meredith-Brown and £100 each from Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Layton.

The Middlesex Hospital, which has been closed and undergoing extensive repairs, painting, &c., during the past eight weeks, was reopened on Monday for the reception of in and out-patients.

Professor William Osler has accepted the post of Thomas Young Lecturer on Medicine at St. George's Hospital, and will give a series of lectures and demonstrations at the hospital next spring on the Diagnosis of Abdominal Tumours.

The Royal Institute of Public Health, and the Metropolitan Asylums Board are considering the difficulties and expenses arising from the admission of a large number of persons to the various hospitals of the Board, consequent upon information which ultimately proved to be incorrect as to the disease from which they were suffering. During the past year no less than 2,000 cases, or nearly 10 per cent. of the total admissions proved to be of this class, and as the patients were detained in the various hospitals for a period of three weeks, the cost has amounted to nearly £15,000, in addition to which these unfortunate people were exposed to infection, and many did, in fact, contract diseases from which they were free on entering the hospital.

The fever returns of the Metropolitan Asylums Board issued last week showed that 3,888 patients remained under treatment—scarlet fever, 3,090; diphtheria, 674; and enteric, 124. The scarlet fever cases, as compared with the corresponding period of last year, show an increase of nearly 1,200.

The grapes growing on the Royal vine at Hampton Court Palace are now ripe, and over 100 bunches have been cut and forwarded for use at His Majesty's table. Through the King's kindness, many of the grapes are sent to the hospitals and dispensaries. The vine itself is 137 years old. It has been known to produce as many as 2,200 bunches in one year.

Mr. George Gilhespy, of Gateshead, bequeathed £10,000 to the Gateshead Dispensary, to be applied as the Governors of that institution shall, in their sole discretion, think best, but expressing the wish that the fund should be known as the "George Gilhespy Bequest," and that a portion of it should be devoted to the relief of cases coming from the factories and works in Gateshead or its immediate neighbourhood.

The completion of the Workhouse Infirmary extensions at Knaresborough, of which the foundation stone was laid last week by the Chairman, Mr. J. Rainforth, will add thirty beds to the accommodation in the female infirmary, with provision for an increased nursing staff of six, bringing the total accommodation up to 240. Amongst the speakers at the dinner which followed was Mr. P. H. Bagenal, who said that from a financial point of view it was economic to have proper sick wards, proper nurses, and proper medical attendants. He rejoiced that he had before him there an influential and strong body of men who understood the principles and essentials of the Poor Law, and who were prepared to put their hands in their pockets when they considered it right to do so.

A typhus fever outbreak in the parish of Olonmany, in the heart of Inishowen, has, says a contemporary, resulted in the death of a fever hospital nurse, two wardwomen, and two patients. At the last meeting of the Inishowen Guardians it was stated that assistance could be obtained only with difficulty to carry out the burials. For the use of a horse £1 was charged, £1 for a cart, and 10s. for the use of a horse and car to convey a coffin from the undertaker's. A man who dug a grave for the interment of a patient who had died from the disease was shunned when he got home. No cases of the disease have occurred during the last four weeks.

The Board of Health of Jersey city, says the *Lancet*, has taken action against the use of ferries and waiting-rooms by consumptives en route to a sanatorium. By resolution of the Board all such cases must be received in Jersey city only from such means of transportation as have been set apart for this special purpose, and such persons shall not be allowed to use the public passage ways and waiting-rooms. The resolution also provides that special cars must be provided for this class of travellers, and all cars or trains used for this purpose must be thoroughly fumigated and disinfected under the direction and supervision of the Board of Health.

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