

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The Humanitarian League has, by resolution, expressed its hearty appreciation of the action of the Government with regard to the flogging of young seamen in the Navy, and has thanked Mr. E. Robertson "for the prompt measures taken by him to remove from the Service a long-standing disgrace." We thank him too.

Among the Bills to be brought before Parliament this Session is one for the prohibition of the vivisection of dogs. It is promoted by the National Canine Defence League, and has so far received promises of support from a large number of Members of Parliament. Belovéd friends of lonely humans! Who is there who will not work for the passing of this Bill?

The exhibition of health, food, and hygiene which will be held at the Crystal Palace, commencing on April 7th, will contain several new features. A novel section will be that occupied by the various spas and health resorts, which have taken spaces in order to display their various attractions, this being effected by means of painted tableaux of considerable size.

Mr. Sidney Webb, lecturing at the School of Economics on Poor Law Administration, was most amusing and instructive. Apparently Bumble was *in excelsis* sixty years ago, when three Commissioners were appointed to take charge of the Poor Law. Owing to their stringent action they became known as the "Three Pachas of Somerset House." They were abolished in 1847, as they became so unpopular. Their spirit apparently survived for many years. Is it "laid" even in these days? We doubt it.

We are glad to note that the large London hospitals are alive to the wisdom of the endowment of their medical schools. Middlesex, which has taken discretionary powers to use subscriptions for the upkeep of the school, has, upon the suggestion of Colonel Needham, established a permanent endowment fund, to which Mr. Henry Morris, F.R.C.S., at once contributed £1,000.

In addition to the mortgage for £85,000 on Charing Cross Hospital, there is still £6,400 owing on the building and furnishing account. The Council most earnestly pleads for additional support. On the support which the hospital receives this year, the Council says it is no exaggeration to declare, its very existence depends.

St. Mary's Hospital, W., has received an anonymous donation of £1,000 towards the sum required to enable the Clarence Memorial wing to be furnished and opened for patients. The Governors of the Tottenham Hospital acknowledge a contribution of £31 10s. to

the funds of the hospital from the Merchant Taylors' Company.

Through the munificence of Mrs. R. L. James, of Beaconsfield, near Liverpool, the town of Alston, which is in the extreme east of Cumberland, near the borders of Durham and Northumberland, is about to be provided with a cottage hospital.

A representative county meeting for Westmoreland was held at Kendal recently, presided over by the Earl of Derby, in connection with the scheme for building a new hospital for the county at Kendal in place of the present institution, which was founded thirty-six years ago, and has been found utterly inadequate for present-day requirements.

Mrs. Holme Simpson, of Kendal, left £10,000 for building and endowing a children's ward, and it was thought possible to attach that to the present building and modify the latter. The scheme of alteration, however, was disapproved by eminent hospital architects, and a new building was decided on, to cost upwards of £12,000, with thoroughly modern equipment. Subscriptions have been invited, and at the time of this meeting £7,700 had been promised.

The Lincoln typhoid epidemic involved a charge of £12,407 upon the Lincoln Board of Guardians. The number of patients treated in hospital was 424, and the average cost per head per week was £4 8s.

The Foleshill (Warwickshire) Rural District Council, which had to deal with an outbreak of small-pox last year, and sent two cases from the workhouse to the Coventry Isolation Hospital, has had to pay for them at the rate of £71 0s. 6d. each. Three years ago the Foleshill Council treated thirty-six cases at their own hospital, when the cost per patient was only £14 11s. 1½d.

Lord Brassey recently opened a new wing of a convalescent home known as Sunshine Home, Hurstpierpoint, Sussex. The home now accommodates fifteen women and girl patients from London hospitals recovering from severe operations. He spoke of the unique value of institutions like the Sunshine Home, which were greatly needed.

In aid of the Harrogate Infirmary £75 has been collected in pennies by a supporter of the institution.

A discovery of great value to medical science is alleged to have been made by Professor Ernst, the bacteriologist of the Harvard Medical School, by the use of the ultra-violet rays of the spectrum in photographing bacteria. It is stated that Professor Ernst, after experiments lasting three years, has been enabled to watch the life of germs, to ascertain the effect of medicine upon them, and to obtain new facts regarding their form. Professor Ernst announced his discovery at the meeting of the Boston Society of Medical Science, at which he stated that the ultra-violet rays did not affect the growth or condition of the bacteria.

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