

## Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



His Majesty the King will attend the British Canadian Festival Concert at Queen's Hall on the 27th inst. in aid of the Lady Minto Cottage Hospitals Fund.

Good diplomatists, says Dr. Nansen, are, to a certain extent, like doctors, as they have to care for the health of the nations and to avoid the disease of nations, which is war.

The Prince of Wales last week presented a Silver Cup, given by Mr. Edgar Speyer, together with £100, as a prize for the best Essay on the Management of an Efficient Voluntary Hospital, to Mr. G. H. Hamilton, Secretary of the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic. His Royal Highness also received Mr. E. W. Morris, Secretary of the London Hospital, the winner of the second prize of £50, given by Mr. Speyer.

The great annual collections in the churches on behalf of the Metropolitan Hospital Sunday Fund were made on Sunday. The fund was started in 1872 under the Lord Mayor of that year, and since then each Lord Mayor in his turn has been its President. This year money is badly needed, and there are hospitals that know not which way to turn for mere daily maintenance. Again Mr. George Herring has promised to add one-fourth to the amount collected in places of worship up to a total of £25,000. The Lord Mayor and Sheriffs attended in State at both Westminster Abbey and St. Paul's Cathedral.

The Bishop of London said in his sermon he would deeply regret the day when their great hospitals were run without charitable aid. He felt that the moment contributions were enforced by the rate collector half the enthusiasm and love for hospital work would go. It would be a bad day for London when that method of securing contributions came into vogue. The Hospital Sunday inspired brotherly love and raised a halo of mercy, generosity, and self-sacrifice, and made them feel that they were fellow-workers with God in the allaying of suffering and pain.

The Bishop of Stepney said at St. Paul's that more than anything else our hospitals needed systematic support. For the most part their income was precarious—dependent upon chance collections. Year by year the State support of hospitals drew nearer. It was not a question of principle that was involved. It was perfectly possible for us to give our rates with the same conscientiousness and willingness that we gave our alms; it was not a question of efficiency, for doctors and nurses under any system of management would for very pride in their work give of their best. What was involved was the moral self-respect of wealthy London. If the State was not to tax our

incomes for the hospitals then we must tax our incomes ourselves. The blight of uncertainty spoiled the work of our charities at the present time. It compelled charity to be insincere. The charity that prospered was not the one that commended itself to thoughtful men by its intrinsic worth, it was the charity which commended itself to the unthinking crowds by beating its own drum and blowing its own trumpet. For the sake of the work which charity did, for the sake of the moral principles which charity involved, we ought to make systematic almsgiving one of the principles of our lives.

Mr. H. J. B. Montgomery, in the *Humane Review*, asks, now that flogging has been abolished in the Army and practically in the Navy, why should it not be abolished likewise in his Majesty's prisons? "The prison cat," he tells us, "has 18-inch lashes, a 5ft. wielding leverage. The lashes are cleared between the fingers after every stroke. The victim in prison is given a minimum of twenty-four hours' hospital treatment after the infliction of the punishment, but is, as a rule, not able to get about for a week." The punishment of flogging is ordered by the prison Visitors, who are usually local magistrates. Prison officials, as a rule, favour the retention of the lash.

At the Red Cross Conference, which has just met at Geneva, one sitting was devoted to an exhaustive examination of the proposals with regard to the protection of soldiers wounded in battle against looting and ill-treatment. The committees give it as their opinion that the searching for and the identifying of the dead on battlefields should be facilitated by furnishing every combatant with a distinctive mark of identification. In the course of the afternoon's sitting an agreement was reached with regard to the attitude to be adopted by belligerents towards ambulance societies recognised by the different Governments and Red Cross Societies of neutral countries who may offer their services to one or other of the belligerents. The settlement arrived at is of interest to many private ambulance societies, and shows the consideration in which they are held.

The awards to the British Section of the recent Liège Exhibition were distributed on June 13th. The proceedings took place at the Mansion House, and the Lord Mayor, Alderman W. Vaughan Morgan occupied the chair. Mr. Imre Kiralfy the British Commissioner-General, read a report on the exhibition, and the meeting was subsequently addressed by the Belgian Minister, Count de Lalaing, Sir Albert Rollit, M. Edouard Seve, Sir William Holland, and the Lord Mayor. The diplomas were then presented by Count de Lalaing. A notable feature of the ceremony was the receipt by Burroughs, Wellcome & Co., of five awards of Grand-Prix, three Diplomas of Honour, three Gold Medals and one Silver Medal.

In connection with the opening of the institute for cancer research at Heidelberg, the International Cancer Conference will be held from September 24th to 27th.

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