

## Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



Owing to the increasing demand for admission to St. Peter's Hospital, Covent Garden, the committee has decided to open from Saturday Sept. 8th, the ward just completed for the admission of those patients in poor or straitened circumstances who are yet capable of paying the cost of their maintenance.

A terrible tragedy occurred at Charing Cross Hospital at 10.45 on Tuesday night, when a male patient suddenly jumped out of bed, threw open a second floor window and leapt on to the pavement below, receiving injuries which resulted in his death in an hour's time. The full nursing staff was on duty at the time, and one of the residents was in the ward. The patient was apparently asleep, till he made a sudden dash at the window

At the inquest on a child of ten weeks old, who had been fed since she was seven weeks old on tinned milk and nursery biscuits, the Coroner, Mr. John Troutbeck, commented on the constant instances of astounding ignorance on the part of fathers and mothers as to the way in which babies should be fed. He did not know whether the time ever would come when society would for its own protection make it possible for them to take some action against persons who were guilty of such cruelty to their children, and whether the excuse of ignorance would be allowed to stand in the way of their being punished.

The trustees of the late Mr. James Holden, of Rochdale, who left nearly a quarter of a million for charitable purposes, have decided to make a grant of £5,000 to the special fund which is being raised to extend the Rochdale Infirmary. The trustees have previously made large grants to the infirmary. With the new sum now promised the extension fund is nearly £20,000.

Miss Frances Ivins, M.B., of London, has been appointed to the staff of the Stanley Hospital at Liverpool. She is the first woman to secure such an appointment in Liverpool.

Dr. Frances Harper has been appointed lady assistant medical officer at St. Helen's. The appointment of a qualified lady doctor was decided upon by the St. Helen's Health Committee with the idea that her duties should practically place her at the head of the lady sanitary inspectors. She will educate midwives, teach women at mothers' meetings, and give instruction in day schools and to women teachers.

Over sixty patients suffering from an epidemic form of skin disease at Sculcoates Workhouse, Hull, have been isolated under the strictest precautions. A number of fresh cases have been reported in

departments of the workhouse other than the infirmary where it originated. Several of the patients are in a serious condition, and the Local Government Board have been communicated with.

At a recent meeting of the Lancashire Asylums Board, Mr. Harold Jackson moved a resolution expressing alarm at the increase of the insane portion of our population, and authorising the Board to take immediate steps to inquire into the best means for preventing the propagation of mentally afflicted persons, with a view to secure legislation which shall attain this end. Owing to the humane treatment in asylums at the present time, 14,000 patients are discharged annually, restored to their right mind but free to spread their mental taint.

A special general meeting of the Governors of Lowestoft Hospital was held last week for the purpose of considering the following resolution of the committee:—"To appoint a house surgeon; to make alterations and additions to the present building for the accommodation of the surgeon; to meet the present demands upon the out-patients' department (which have very materially increased during the last few years), and for the greater convenience of the staff."

Colonel A. G. Lucas, who presided, said that great inconvenience had sometimes been felt for the want of a resident medical officer, and the large majority of the Committee had come to the conclusion that the appointment of a house surgeon was necessary, and it was very desirable he should be in residence for the fishing season. The recommendations of the Committee were unanimously adopted.

The Paris correspondent of the *Tribune* writes: A new malady which will probably be known as telephonitis has been discovered. The principal subjects have been girls in the telephone service, and many of them have been compelled to abandon the service, and the administration is alarmed at the steady growth in the number of victims among the operators. The malady is supposed to be due to the constant contact with electric currents, and it has been resolved to replace the women operators with men.

A German contemporary announces that Dr. Otto Schmidt, of Cologne, claims to have discovered the cancer bacillus in fungus. The transmission of germs from fungus to animals has produced immediate typical cancer. Dr. Schmidt believes that the bacillus is the same in human as in animal cancer, and that his discoveries are the first steps to a definite serum cure for the disease.

News has been received at Constantinople from Trebizond, that owing to the action of the authorities in herding together the persons suspected of being attacked with plague it has spread to an alarming extent, two hundred cases having been reported during the past few days. Precautions have been taken to prevent the plague reaching Constantinople.

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