

## Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



On Thursday afternoon last week Lady Strong, wife of Sir T. Vezey Strong (Chairman of the Board of Management), laid the foundation stone of the new out-patients' department at the London Temperance Hospital, Hampstead Road. The proceedings took place in a tent in which a platform had been erected, and the academical robes of the staff and the nurses' uniforms gave a bright touch of colour to the scene. On her arrival, Lady Strong was presented by the Matron (Miss Richardson) with a bouquet of pink orchids, lilies of the valley, and smilax, tied with pink ribbons. Prayers having been said by Canon Barker, the Treasurer, Mr. Henry Holloway, presented an address stating that the Board, on the recommendation of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, have undertaken to pull down the old out-patient department and to erect a new and commodious structure. The first section comprises the ground floor and basement of the south block, including a Waiting Hall to seat 200 patients, consulting and examining rooms, ophthalmic room, theatre for minor operations, dispensary, casualty rooms, and store rooms at a cost of £10,000. The completed scheme will cost about £25,000.

Sir T. Vezey Strong, who briefly described the position, said that with the necessary furniture £11,000 would be required to complete the first section, towards this £5,489 13s. 1d. had been received. Sir William Collins, M.P., speaking on behalf of the surgical staff, described the work of the hospital as not only local but national. The institution was the Mecca of the temperance reformer. After Lady Strong had performed the ceremony of laying the stone, with the trowel presented by the architect, Mr. Rowland Plumbe, F.R.I.B.A., gifts were presented and laid on the stone, the total amount so received being £1,063 18s. 6d. The announcement was received with hearty applause.

Archdeacon Wilberforce, Dr. Robinson Soutar, and the Dean of Hereford having voiced a vote of thanks to Lady Strong, the proceedings concluded with the singing of the Doxology, after which many of the audience visited the wards of the hospital, which were thrown open for inspection.

Her Royal Highness Princess Louise Duchess of Argyll has consented to open the new wing of the Central London Throat and Ear Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, on Monday afternoon, November 19th, when purses will be presented to Her Royal Highness in aid of the building fund, to which £6,000 towards the £15,000 required has been contributed.

A new hospital is being erected in connection with the Royal Cornwall Sailors' Home at Falmouth, at a cost of £2,000. The home does a good work among British as well as foreign sailors, and is maintained

by voluntary effort. Mr. John Charles Williams, of Caerhayes Castle, who has contributed £100 to the fund, is to open the new hospital.

Dr. J. Strathearn has been appointed Assistant Surgeon to the British Ophthalmic Hospital, Jerusalem, and has taken up his duties, in succession to Dr. T. Harrison Butler, whose term of office has expired. The quarterly returns show that the hospital continues to work at high pressure. There were 262 in-patients, 10,112 consultations in the out-patient department, and 410 operations. The Greek Patriarch has given a sum of money sufficient to maintain a bed for one year.

The great Russian medical association called the Perogow, which includes the bulk of the doctors in Russia, will hold its congress at Helsingfors this year, as it is not allowed to meet in Russia. The congress will discuss the best means of fighting famine and its terrible effects. It is asserted that the famine funds voted by the Government never benefit the sufferers, but are swindled away.

## Midwifery Notes.

### THE CERTIFIED MIDWIVES' TOTAL ABSTINENCE LEAGUE.

The Annual Meeting of the Certified Midwives' Total Abstinence League was, by the kind permission of the Dean, held in the Chapter House of St. Paul's Cathedral, which was filled to overflowing, on Friday afternoon last week. The President of the League, Dr. Annie McCall, who was in the Chair, said in the course of her opening remarks, that there was nothing from any point of view to prevent the practice of total abstinence by midwives. The sooner those who were not total abstainers stepped out of the ranks of certified midwives the better. Untold good would accrue to young mothers, as well as to their families if midwives did their duty in the practice of total abstinence.

The first speaker was Miss Le Geyt, who spoke of the motto of the League, "strong to save." Midwives, she said, possessed the power to do the utmost good or evil. It was absolutely necessary, and of the greatest importance, that they should become teetotalers. The time of a woman's greatest temptation was when she was nursing, or when she was weak from her trial. The speaker asked the audience whether they were going to aid and abet the nursing mother in taking stimulants, or whether they would be strong to save. Her line of argument was not quite apparent as her view appeared to be that every one who was not a total abstainer fostered drinking habits in nursing mothers. Such has not been our experience of educated midwives, whether total abstainers or not. The large majority work with a strong sense of responsibility and carefully explain to their patients the need of maintaining their strength by wholesome food and good milk, instead of relying on the fictitious support of stimulants.

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