

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The Annual Meeting of the General Council of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London was held last week at Marlborough House, the Prince of Wales presiding. The draft report of the Council for the year 1906 was submitted to the Council. It stated that the total income of the Fund from general sources amounted to £110,955 16s. 1d.

Hospitals in the County of London, or within seven miles of Charing Cross, desiring to participate in the grants made by King Edward's Hospital Fund for London for this year must make application before the 31st inst. to the Hon. Secretaries, 81, Cheapside.

Viscount Portman has sent to the Treasurer of Charing Cross Hospital a donation of £1,000, and £1,000 to Queen Charlotte's Hospital, Marylebone Road, of which he is President, for the enlargement of the Nurses' Home. For the proposed enlargement it is estimated that quite £5,000 will still be required.

Sir John Dickson Poynder, M.P., who presided at the Annual Meeting of the Governors of the Great Northern Central Hospital, was able to state that the receipts showed an improvement over those of last year, £21,008 being available for maintenance, against an expenditure of £16,390. There was still a deficiency of £7,630. As soon as possible it was the desire of the committee to provide a children's ward in the hospital, and a convalescent home, both of which were greatly needed, and he appealed to the generous public to supply the funds for these purposes.

The Great Northern Hospital is doing excellent work in a very poor and populous neighbourhood, and we hope this appeal may be successful.

The Lord Mayor, presiding at the ninety-third Annual Meeting of the Royal Chest Hospital, City Road, said the hospital was one of the first erected in Europe for the study and treatment of consumption and other diseases of the chest.

In order to increase the popularity of Oxo, the proprietors are giving away, free of charge, handsome enlargements of customers' own photographs. These are mounted to measure 23 inches by 19 inches, and are beautiful reproductions. To obtain one of them, save the coupons fixed over the capsules of Oxo bottles until you have collected 21s. worth, and send in the coupons, together with the photograph to be enlarged, to "Oxo Portrait Department, 4, Lloyd's Avenue, London, E.C." In exchange for additional coupons, to the value of 21s. applicants' pictures will be beautifully framed in oak, with gold slip. Surely this is too good a chance to be missed.

The Guild of Service for Poor Law Workers.

The Bishop of Kingston occupied the chair at a meeting at the Church House, on the afternoon of Friday, March 15th, convened to further the objects of the Guild of Service for workers, salaried and voluntary, in poor law and kindred institutions. The speakers were both distinguished and eloquent, and came prepared to bless the new movement in general terms, but the majority took pains to explain that they knew very little about it. The Bishop said he was unworthy to occupy the chair, and had come to be instructed. Major Mallet said that until about a week ago he had never heard of the Guild, and Colonel Barrington-Foote described himself as a humbug; he had never heard of it till two or three days ago. He also said a reason assigned for the need of the Guild was that as the staff were not included in the official charge of Poor Law chaplains, which extended only to the patients, they could not help the former unless first approached by them. Surely a chaplain who constantly visits a workhouse must frequently see the officers, and if the right sort were appointed to these places the Guild would hardly be wanted. He had one man in his mind—Father Dolling. You couldn't find a Dolling every day, he knew that, but if he had been chaplain of a workhouse, was it conceivable that he would have thought that the officials must approach him before he could offer them his services. He, the speaker, had visited a workhouse for 25 years, and he could "pal on" with the employees as well as with the inmates. He had no commission, but he had established a right of way. He concluded by welcoming the Guild and its objects. Father Waggett said that amongst the treasures of wisdom which the race possessed were a collection of triads which has come down to us from very early days. In one of these the three characteristics of a good work were defined as discretion, exertion, and hope. He put these before the Guild. In regard to the Poor Law, there was a growing feeling that something was wrong that workhouses should be necessary. No doubt they ought not to exist, but we were in the position of men handing about brandy and splints after a railway accident. There ought to be no accidents, but given the accident remedies must be administered. At best workhouses might be regarded as tanks for keeping fishes, who ought to be swimming free. Major Mallet spoke of the value of Guilds in doing away with the sense of isolation. The aims of the Guild were described by Miss Stone. They are designed to provide a rule of life for Churchmen and Churchwomen connected with Poor Law and kindred Institutions. The speech of the afternoon was undoubtedly that of Miss James, a Poor Law Guardian in the Bethnal Green Union, who showed how very few people take an interest in Poor Law matters, unless there happens to be a scandal, and made a most eloquent appeal for increased knowledge and interest in Poor Law work.

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