

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The report of Dr. Longford, Medical Officer of the Stoke-on-Trent Workhouse, to the Guardians at a recent meeting, discloses a most discreditable condition of things in the workhouse hospital. He states that he has written many reports on the want of accommodation for children in the hospital, that several beds contain two and even three children, that there is no isolation ward for certain cases, and that children with one disease became infected with others, and that he has had to reprimand little girls for using obscene words which they have picked up like parrots. The supervision of wards in which obscene language is permitted must be very inadequate. The report was referred to the Cottage Homes Committee.

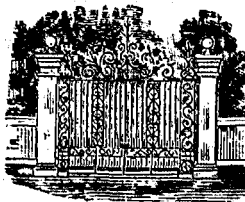
The Manchester Society of Architects visited the new Manchester Infirmary last week, and were extremely pleased with what they saw. The visitors went through the wards, inspected a verandah that overlooks the mortuary and post-mortem chamber, and then proceeded to the basement, where they saw three huge boilers for radiating the heat through the buildings. This will be done by pumping hot water over ten miles of pipes. The operating theatre with its students' gallery, the chloroforming chamber, the outpatients' department, and the accident receiving hall were also inspected. The work of plastering is approaching completion, and the visitors were informed that when the last piece of Portland stone is laid some 16,000 tons will have been used.

An anonymous benefactor has promised a donation of £1,000 to enable the committee of the Infants' Hospital to commence their work at the new premises, Vincent Square, Westminster, free from debt.

Now that the scheme for the extension of the Salford Royal Hospital has assumed a definite shape, the Special Committee appointed has deemed the time opportune to issue an urgent appeal to the general public for subscriptions towards the £70,000 which is the estimated cost of the project. The scheme provides for the purchase of land adjoining the existing block of buildings, an increase in the number of beds from one hundred and thirty-five to two hundred, accommodation for the nurses and staff, and alterations in the present accident and outpatients' department, laundry, and kitchen. Up to date, contributions and promises to the amount of £27,081 have been received, so that there still remains to be obtained a sum of upwards of £42,000 before the scheme can be placed on a clear and sound financial basis.

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



At the Bishopsgate Institute, Bishopsgate Street Without, London, E.C., two exhibits are being held side by side till October 5th. The principal one is organised by the *Clarion* Guild of Handicraft. This Guild, started by the *Clarion* newspaper seven years ago, consists of associations of men and women, many of whom are employed during the day in congenial tasks, and who in their scanty leisure meet together at a common workroom to find solace in the work they love for its own sake. The beautiful work, book-binding, enamelled jewellery, arts, and crafts of all kinds, here shown, goes far to prove that the finest work is done by those who can give effect to their desire to produce the best that is in them. The Hon. Secretary of this Guild of Handicraft is Julia Dawson (Mrs. H. M. Worral), 44, Worship Street, E.C.

In vivid contrast to this beautiful little exhibit is the small section organised by the Central London Branch of the Women's Labour League, showing the workers, or specimen of work, in some of the sweated industries. As one passes from one to another, and hears the same story with slight variations, one wonders how it is possible for women to work and keep sane under such conditions of grinding poverty, or that a civilised nation can tolerate such conditions for a day. We saw, for instance, a worker making young men's trousers. For making, lining, pressing, and turning these out complete she gets 2s. 3d. a dozen. Out of this sum she has to pay nearly fourpence for cotton, 1s. a week for the hire of her machine, and to keep a fire going for heating the irons. In an exceptionally good week she may earn as much as 10s. 6d., more often it is four or five shillings, and she pays five shillings a week rent. Talk to the blouse maker who by working 14 hours a day is able to earn an average of 5s. a week, by making blouses at 2s. 4d. a dozen, out of which she had to pay for cotton, machine, and blouse stand; the matchbox maker, who gets 2d. to 2½d. per gross, and has to buy her own paste and string. Everywhere it is the same story. Twelve to fourteen hours a day slavery for a pittance which will scarcely keep body and soul together, and often it has to suffice to maintain a widow's home, and provide for three or four children.

As some misapprehension has arisen as to what women are eligible for town councils under the Qualification of Women Act (County and Borough Councils), 1907, which has just come into force, Miss Annie Leigh Browne explains that as candidates for town councils in England and Wales only electors are eligible, that is, single women and widows whose names are on the burgess roll, but no married women, as they have no vote for a town council.

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