

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales presided at a meeting of the General Council of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, held at Marlborough House last Friday afternoon, to provide for the management and administration of the fund for the remainder of the year, in accordance with the provisions of the Act for the Incorporation of the Fund, which received the Royal assent on Thursday.

At the recent International Red Cross Society Conference the prize for the best and quickest methods for discovering and lifting the wounded in the battlefield, and transporting them to places of safety, where their wounds can be attended to, was divided between General Melan (Russia), and Lieut.-Colonel H. G. Hathaway, Royal Army Medical Corps (Great Britain).

The plans for the new King's College Hospital to be erected at Denmark Hill are now completed, and building operations will commence shortly. The plans of the building, now definitely passed, give an idea of the huge dimensions of the structure, which will cover twelve acres. The hospital will have a frontage of over a thousand feet. The nine ward blocks will extend up to the park, all the extremities of the blocks facing due south. The three centre wards will be three storeys high, the others being two storeys. They will be separated by open lawn spaces. On each floor overlooking the park, verandahs will be erected where patients will have the full benefit of the fresh air. There will be six hundred beds in the new building, as against the two hundred and twenty-four in the existing premises, and the present staff of ninety nurses will probably be nearly trebled. The building throughout will be arranged and equipped in accordance with the latest principles of modern science, and will be one of the finest in the world. It will serve a zone containing one and a half million people.

The committee appeals urgently for the remaining sum of £125,000, and towards this object a bazaar is to be held on October 29th and following days in the Public Baths, Camberwell. In connection with the appeal a coloured poster is being designed for circulation throughout the Metropolis. The central figure represents a nurse in the King's College Hospital uniform. With arms outstretched she stands on the steps of the new buildings, and around her is clustered a great concourse of sick and maimed. In the far distance is seen the dome of St. Paul's, over which the clouds are breaking, while a ray of hope strikes across the faces of the waiting crowd as a young mother gives her stricken child into the nurse's keeping.

Echoes of the Conference.

The remarkable vitality of the International Nursing movement was evinced as soon as the Programme for the Paris Conference, arranged by the Committee, was announced, and it was with very great regret that no place could be found on the already overcrowded programme for many papers offered. Had the Conference continued for a fortnight, there would have been ample speakers to fill the time. This, of course, is all to the good, but not unnaturally it caused disappointment to those who could not be invited to take part.

But we regret that, from a report of the Conference (which is not inspired with the true international spirit of kindness), which appears in *The Asylum News*, under the thinly veiled anonymity of "C.H.A.," some mental nurses may gather an altogether wrong impression of the organisation of the International Council of Nurses. The writer, who is not a member, was courteously accorded all the privileges of the Conference, even to admittance to the official social functions, and yet in return for this courtesy we find "C.H.A." making the following statements:

"At the Conference the mental nurse was completely ignored by the originators of the Conference."

In spite of this, "C.H.A." continues: "We are looking forward to the next International Nursing Congress . . . and I must most strongly urge the mental nurses to send a delegate to read a paper; but, above all, the mental nurses must combine and exert themselves, or they will be again ignored and made to take a back seat, a course which is both unfair and undignified, and must become a thing of the past."

From this intentionally mischievous and very inaccurate statement, one would imagine that mental nurses had earned the *right* to take part in the recent Conference at Paris, and that the Committee had unjustly excluded them from participating in it. Quite the reverse is the truth. Although mental nurses have not formed a professional self-governing League, and are, therefore, not in a position to become affiliated to the International Council, and help it with personal service and funds, they were invited by the Committee to enjoy at Paris all the advantages which others had worked for and accomplished, and "C.H.A." evidently availed herself of these privileges.

As wrong impressions may be gathered from "C.H.A.'s" article, it must be made quite plain from now onwards that the next meeting of the International Council of Nurses is the official Quinquennial Meeting, and that only duly accredited delegates, who are members of National Councils of Nurses, will have a right to speak and vote at this meeting.

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