

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



Lord Ludlow, treasurer of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, has received £500 from the Merchant Taylors' Company, being the fifth instalment of a donation to the re-building fund.

It is proposed to hold an entertainment and fête in May in the Clarence Wing of St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, in aid of the work which this institution accomplishes. The wide area served has been mapped out into districts, or "centres." The Duchess of Rutland is president of the Marylebone Centre; the Duchess of Sutherland of the St. George's, Hanover Square, Centre; and the Duchess of Abercorn of the centre for Westbourne Terrace; while Lady Dimsdale holds the office of chairman of the General Ladies' Committee. The Great Western Railway Company has sent a donation of £250 towards the funds.

A statement issued by the Royal Hospital for Incurables, Putney Heath, shows that one pension of £20 a year has been paid to an incurable for 48 years, two for 46 years, four for 44 years, and five for 40 years. The institution has 220 incurables within its walls and serves 700 pensions of £20 a year to incurables all over the country. It requires £35,000 a year to keep up its work, and urgently appeals for help.

The Norfolk and Norwich Hospital is a very well managed institution, the nursing department, under the direction of Miss Cann, having attained a high standard of excellence. We are glad to see some valuable gifts reported in the annual report, notably property given by the Chairman—seven cottages and a public-house—both properties being adjacent to the hospital grounds.

Miss C. R. Waley, the honorary almoner, gives a most satisfactory report of her valuable work, in which she says that 2,672 outdoor patients applied for treatment, and that she had seen 2,422 of them. Miss Waley says that "it is obviously impossible to verify systematically all the answers that are given, but occasionally they are accidentally verified by the attendance at different times of different members of a family, and in these cases the details have been found to tally: Another proof of genuineness is that in the many home visits that have been made it has never been found that a false address has been given. The inquiries are usually answered without reluctance, and in one case only, in the casualty department, the patient refused to answer. Patients express great satisfaction at the present facility of attending hospital without the preliminary search for a letter, and also because the length of attendance is now determined by the time required for the necessary treatment, and not by the duration of validity of a recommendation."

The Committee of the Fletcher Convalescent Home at Cromer, a branch of the Norwich Hospital, report that the system introduced this year of purchasing provisions through the hospital contracts has effected an economy; but a considerable saving is also due to the careful supervision of the matron, Miss E. A. Noar, to whom the committee tender their best thanks. The number of patients admitted during the year was 318, against 326 in 1906, a decrease of eight. During the year the Nurses' Rest Room was occupied by 19 nurses from the Hospital for a total period of 15 weeks. They derived much benefit from the rest and change.

A modest little Bill has just been circulated among members of Parliament which, if carried, would strike a heavy blow at Slumdom. It deals with several points outside the scope of the Government Housing and Town Planning Bill, and is backed by Dr. George Cooper—for many years Chairman of the London County Council's Public Health Committee—Sir Walter Foster, Mr. Will Crooks, and others.

One of the objects of the Bill is that the medical officers and sanitary inspectors and health visitors appointed by the local authorities should be strengthened by having half their salaries paid by the County Councils. This would free them from local intimidation. Slum-owners on the local authorities could not get them dismissed for being keen in serving notices on defaulting landlords. Further, it aims at legalising the position of the health visitor. She is more of an adviser to poor mothers than an inspector. She is a useful agent for reforming the slum-dweller as a means towards reforming the slum. The Bill also makes it compulsory upon every County Council to appoint a medical officer of its own. Many of the smaller county authorities have no such officer, while others pay a nominal retaining fee only. It is proposed that the county medical officers should give their whole time to their duties and reside within the district.

Our Foreign Letter.

A MATRON'S VISIT TO DAMASCUS.

(Concluded from page 319.)

A wonderful sight was to see a caravan come in from Bagdad—the sons of the desert on the ship of the desert; see them enter the old Turkish bath now used as an auction room, and unload their treasures. And then the examination of the merchandise began, and the noise of bargaining rose higher and higher, even the dear old camels looking round with mild, large eyes of astonishment. So we left them, and went to visit the large brass and copper factory, passing out of the city through the large gateway of the ancient walls, down the street they called "Straight" (but which must be only so to the cross-eyed), past many ancient buildings, until we arrived at our destination. Once inside the walls of the factory, the noise of hammering on brass and other metals was so deafening we could scarcely hear ourselves speak. And what a sight

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)