

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



Since its foundation in 1842 of the Hospital for Women, Soho Square, W., over 227,000 sick poor women have received medical and surgical relief, while 7,000 women have been received in the new wing for those who could contribute towards the cost of their maintenance. Speaking with the knowledge that there was not a vacant bed for the many waiting to take advantage of the benefits of the institution, the Earl of Shaftesbury had an unanswerable case in appealing, at the festival dinner at the Hotel Metropole last week, for a substantial contribution towards the £25,000 needed for rebuilding. The hospital, which was the first established in any country exclusively for women's ailments, contains sixty beds, and during the past thirty years has doubled the number of in-patients, the number of sufferers so treated last year totalling 924, 3,700 out-patients being also attended to. During the evening Mr. A. Hayward, the secretary, announced that £2,597 had been contributed, including £500 from Lord Portman, £250 from the hon. treasurer, Mr. F. A. Bevan, and £200 from the chairman.

Mr. R. W. Perks, M.P., has placed his house and grounds, 11, Kensington Palace Gardens, at the disposal of the Ladies' Guild of Helpers of the London Homoeopathic Hospital, Great Ormond Street, W.C., for holding a sale of work and garden fête, on Tuesday, June 23rd next, in aid of the building extension fund.

A memoir of the eminent physician, Dr. Edmund Symes-Thompson, so well known to many nurses, has been prepared by his wife, and will be issued immediately by Mr. Elliot Stock. The work contains a portrait of Dr. Symes-Thompson and other illustrations.

At a meeting of the Extension Committee of the Salford Royal Hospital it was reported that further satisfactory progress has been made with the new Nurses' Home, the walls of which are now nearing the level of the second floor. About 60 workmen are at present engaged on the building. The staircase and floors, of fire-resisting construction, are being put in as the work proceeds.

A campaign for the prevention of tuberculosis in China is heralded by the permission which Dr. S. A. Knopf has granted for the translation of his prize essay into Chinese. The translation will be done by Dr. George A. Stewart, of Nanking University, and the essay will shortly be issued in large numbers. Dr. Stewart, who is a medical missionary, was struck by the practical value of the essay. He introduced it to China first through a review in a native medical journal. He writes that the Chinese suffer severely from tuberculosis, and know practically nothing about hygienic methods of combating it.

The Passing Bell.

Miss LOUISA STEVENSON, LL.D.

Although the death of Miss Louisa Stevenson, which took place on the 13th inst., was not wholly unexpected to those who have sorrowfully watched her failing powers during the last year, none the less it comes as a grievous and irreparable loss, not only to her large circle of personal friends, but also to those associated with her in the many departments of women's work in which she took so keen and practical an interest, and most especially to the trained nurses of the United Kingdom, whose cause she espoused so warmly, whose demand for legal status she furthered by all means in her power, and in the progress of which, as in all nursing matters, she maintained a warm interest to the end.

The nursing profession owes a deep debt of gratitude to Miss Stevenson, and when at last the State Register of Trained Nurses is established her work will have contributed in no small degree to this result. Our special debt to her is that when the cause had few adherents outside the ranks of trained nurses, when the newly-formed Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses numbered but a few hundred members, she brought to its support her honourable name and her great talents, and by accepting the Presidency gave to it the prestige of association with one well known to be foremost in promoting movements for the welfare of the community. She was well acquainted but undaunted by the difficulties which confronted the new Society, for she had acted as the Hon. Secretary of the National Association for Promoting the Medical Education of Women, which, under the leadership of Dr. Sophia Jex-Blake, fought and won for women a qualifying education as medical practitioners, and their subsequent registration.

Her belief in the ultimate success of the Nurses' Registration cause never faltered, and we cannot here do better than quote the wise and encouraging words which, as President, she addressed to the Annual Meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses in 1904.

"I ask you to remember that reforms are not initiated by the great and mighty. I know of no reform measure taken up enthusiastically by large numbers, but our cause is founded on justice and righteousness, and will ultimately triumph. There is much hard work before us, and much money needed, for nothing can be done without money, so I ask you to relieve the Treasurer of financial anxiety. But I am perfectly certain, I am as sure as that the sun will rise to-morrow, that eventually, for the whole of the British Empire, there will be established a State Register of Trained Nurses."

It is impossible here to enumerate the many departments of public work with which Miss Stevenson was associated, and in which she rendered such valuable service. She was laid to rest on Saturday last amidst every evidence of affection and public regard, and we realise that a gracious, winning, and heroic personality has passed from our midst.

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