

## Reflections.

### FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

Princess Victoria of Schleswig Holstein last week visited the Royal Portsmouth, Portsea, and Gosport Hospital, and opened the two new wards, one for boys and one for girls, each containing twenty beds, which she named "The Edward and Mary," after Prince Edward and Princess Mary of Wales, and "The Young Ward" after Mr. John F. Young, Chairman of the Building Committee. The Princess afterwards inspected the Hospital, and the Matron, Assistant Matron, and Sisters were presented. Before leaving the Princess took tea in one of the new wards.

The balance-sheet of the concert which was held in the Great Hall of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, in June, in aid of the Nurses' Home, has just been issued by the Treasurer, Dr. Morley Fletcher, audited by Dr. Tooth and Dr. Griffith. This shows a balance of £121 19s. 3d.

The Prince of Wales has generously increased his subscription to St. George's Hospital from twenty guineas to £50 per annum.

By permission of the Lord Mayor the annual meeting of the Royal Free Hospital, W.C., will be held at the Mansion House on March 10th, at 3 p.m., when the claims of the hospital for increased support will be advocated. The upkeep last year cost £17,632, while the reliable income did not cost half that sum, and it is only by strenuous exertions that the Committee have managed to pay their way. As the hospital is the only one of the twelve Medical Schools in London which opens its doors to women, and where house appointments are open to them, it should command widespread support.

A most useful society, and one which is engaged in a most difficult task, is the After Care Association for Poor Persons Discharged from Asylums for the Insane, which held its thirtieth annual meeting on February 3rd at 26, Devonshire Place, by permission of Dr. G. H. Savage, who presided.

The Association, which was originated by the late Rev. H. Hawkins, for so many years the large-hearted and saintly Chaplain of the Colney Hatch Asylum, is steadily growing in importance and influence. Its most important function is to find suitable occupations for mental convalescents, and last year applications were received from 248 women and 140 men, an increase of 40 on the previous year. One of the speakers was Mr. H. J. Tennant, M.P., Under Secretary to the Board of Trade, who praised the Association for not spending more money than it possessed, and said that the task of obtaining employment must fall very severely upon those with whom the Association was concerned. He was not sure that it might not be possible for people to say that this was a work which the Government itself should undertake. It was the hope of the department to which he belonged to institute labour exchanges, and conceivably they

might, in the near future, be of use to one another. Dr. Robert Jones, Medical Superintendent of Claybury Asylum, read a most interesting paper on "The Urgent Necessity of Helping Mental Convalescents," and said that a long experience at two of the largest London asylums had convinced him that the Association was doing invaluable work. There were over 128,000 insane persons in England and Wales, and our boasted civilisation was probably manufacturing six or seven more a day. Last year 1,228 patients, of whom 705 were women, were discharged from asylums in London recovered. At least one in ten of these women were friendless, and another one in ten was without friends able to render assistance. The Association ministered to the most helpless as well as the most overwhelmingly pitiable.

Under the will of Mr. Edwin Popplewell Dawson, formerly of Leeds, the London Hospital and the General Infirmary, Leeds, will each benefit to the extent of £17,000, and the Bradford Infirmary, the General Hospital, Birmingham, the Infirmary, Burton-on-Trent, and the Royal National Life-Boat Institution will each receive about £8,500.

The Directors of the Edinburgh Life Assurance Company will report to the 86th Annual General Court, to be held in April, that 1,343 policies were issued during the year 1908 assuring the sum of £802,620 (the relative premiums thereon being £31,112)—of which £56,500 was reassured. The new assurances effected in 1908 exceeded those of the bonus year (1907) by £26,629 gross and £28,129 net. The net amount of new assurances effected in the first year of each of the quinquennial periods, 1898-1902, 1903-1907, and 1908-1912 was:—1898, £474,592; 1903, £567,692; 1908, £746,120. The Manager and Actuary is Mr. Arch. Hewat, 26, George Street, Edinburgh.

A verdict of death from anthrax, but that there was no evidence to prove how it was contracted, was returned at Chester at the inquest on the body of Frank Lawrence, warehouseman, employed by a firm of brush-makers. He returned home on the 16th ult. with a swollen neck, and died the next day before a doctor arrived. The post-mortem showed that death was due to anthrax in the blood. It was stated that anthrax could be contracted from hair brushes, with which the firm employing Lawrence dealt. A factory inspector said that foreign hair must be disinfected. The regulations did not prevent the importation of foreign brushes which might be infected.

Dr. J. O. Wakelin Barrett and Dr. Warrington Yorke, members of the Blackwater Fever Expedition, sent out to Nyasaland in August, 1907, by the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, have now returned, and report that they have had unusual opportunities for studying the disease, nearly all the cases in the Protectorate having come under their observation.

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