

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

As £508 worth of seats were sold for the brilliant charity *matinée*, held at the Queen's Theatre, in aid of the Royal Ear Hospital, Soho, this very deserving little hospital should benefit considerably. Both the King and Queen were present to support the "Society" actresses.

The Prince and Princess of Wales paid a two hours' visit to the London Hospital on Saturday, and were greatly interested in the various departments of London's largest hospital.

It is proposed to hold a "Territorial Forces Exhibition of Equipment and Appliances" at the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, in May next. Requirements of the cavalry, artillery, engineers, infantry, transport, ambulance, and other branches of the Force will be included in the exhibition. The chief offices of the organising managers are at Balfour House, Finsbury Pavement, E.C.

Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Webb have published in two volumes the text of the Poor Law Commission Minority Report, with a short introduction to each volume.

The Bishops of the Province of Canterbury, when they met at the Church House in Convocation last week, discussed the report of a committee on the duty of Christians in the matter of investing their money. The Bishop of Hereford said he did not see why, if a farmer were compelled to have his name on his cart, the owner of slum property should not be obliged to have a plate on each house saying who was the owner. That simple expedient would, he believed, do more than all their large schemes to improve the worst class of slum property.

Paying patients are to be admitted to the Birmingham Eye Hospital. The idea is to benefit the comparatively poor who may fairly come within the laws of the hospital. At present the Committee propose to set aside four single wards for patients of the class referred to, charging an approximate fee of two guineas per week, and allowing the doctor attending the patient to charge a moderate fee according to circumstances.

At the annual meeting of the Trustees of the Royal Infirmary, Manchester, the Earl of Derby was appointed President. It was reported that only £9,000 of the £100,000 required to open the new Infirmary free of debt remained to be raised, and it was hoped to do this before the visit of the King and Queen in July next.

Mr. Cobbett, the Chairman of the Board, touched on the question of the admission of women doctors to resident medical posts at the Manchester Royal Infirmary. "I may refer to the suggestions," he said, "that have been made to the Board that they should throw open to the competition of both sexes the resident medical posts. It is probably

desirable I should take this public opportunity of reading a resolution which the Board came to on Tuesday last. The resolution is this: 'That a Committee be appointed to inquire into and consider the subject of the appointment of medical women for resident posts, and to report in writing to the Board.'"

On this subject Councillor Johnston said there had been a feeling of disappointment among women doctors that provision had not been made for their accommodation at the new infirmary. He was glad a committee had been appointed to go into the question. Women doctors were an increasing class.

Lord Derby, speaking on this matter, said he was pleased it had been pointed out that the desire of the ladies was not for remuneration but for experience. They must all recognise that women doctors had a great part to play in the future.

The Managers of the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, expect to have the laundry, power-house, extension of nurses' home, and admission building ready for occupation and use in spring, and to have the north or surgical block ready for the accommodation of patients before autumn. Immediately on completion of the north block the managers hope to be enabled to proceed with the erection of certain other portions of the new buildings, and in such a way as to create the least possible disturbance of the ordinary work of the Infirmary.

The Report of the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws and Relief of Distress.

Wednesday, February 17th, 1909, will be a landmark, and no insignificant one, in the social history of this country, for on that day, by command of His Majesty, the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws presented to both Houses of Parliament a Report describing and criticising the Poor Law System in England and Wales, and making certain suggestions as to its reform.

For many months speculation has been keen as to the recommendations to be embodied in the Report, but so well has the secret been kept that on Wednesday its details came as a surprise to all but the initiated.

In accordance with the usual plan the Press was supplied with advance copies of the Report so that their comments were ready for publication on the day that the Report itself was presented to both the Houses of Parliament and obtainable by the general public.

So great was the demand that the supply was exhausted during the morning of publication, and a second edition immediately put upon the market.

The Report is a bulky volume, consisting as it does of 1,238 pages of closely printed matter, and dealing with every possible aspect of Poor Law and its problems. It is clearly impossible in the limits

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