

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

We greatly regret to note that, with few exceptions, the annual reports of hospitals all over the country deplore a serious deficit. Hospital management becomes more costly year by year, and as rates rise people have less to give for charity—or is it that the standard of living is now so much more extravagant than in the past and that self-indulgence absorbs all the ready cash?

The Prince of Wales presided on the 10th inst. at Marlborough House over the annual meeting of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London. Lord Rothschild presented the balance-sheet for 1908, which was adopted. Sir Savile Crossley presented the report of the Council for the year, which showed that the total receipts were £345,792, of which, however, £113,695 consisted of contributions to capital, and £67,770 of legacies. The amount distributed was £140,000.

Hospitals in the County of London, or within nine miles of Charing Cross, desiring to participate in the grants made by King Edward's Hospital Fund for 1909, must make application before the 24th inst. to the Honorary Secretaries, 7, Walbrook, E.C.

A scheme of vital importance to London is just now receiving the attention of the Home Office. This involves the setting up of an elaborate ambulance service on the lines recommended by the Departmental Committee appointed by Mr. Gladstone in December, 1906. It is not unlikely that proposals may be put forward for dividing London into accident areas, much on the same principle as it is divided into fire areas for Fire Brigade purposes. Each of such accident areas would have an ambulance station, provided preferably with a motor vehicle, to serve primarily its own allotted district, but, like a fire-engine, available for service in other areas in case of emergency. Each station would have a staff of men capable of rendering first aid, and of driving and managing motor vehicles. The stations would be connected with a number of street call posts, each having telephonic communication.

The increasing demands upon the accommodation at the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, resulting from the rapid growth of the city and neighbourhood, have rendered necessary a considerable enlargement of this institution. A nurses' home has already been provided, and the working men's committee have undertaken to raise sufficient money by collections in factories and workshops to pay for the cost of extending the outpatient department, towards which they have already in hand £2,700. Other parts of the scheme embrace two new wards, kitchen, and an operating theatre, estimated to require £15,000 to carry out.

The Passing Bell.

We greatly regret to record the death of Miss Jessie Crerar, a Sister at the Great Northern Central Hospital, N., which will cause widespread sorrow amongst her many friends. Miss Crerar, who was trained at the London Hospital, Whitechapel, E., was appointed Sister of the Gynaecological Ward (Ward V.) at the Great Northern Hospital in 1907, and by her devotion to duty and constant activity for the welfare of her patients, won the admiration and respect of all with whom she came in contact. Her indomitable spirit was often greater than her physical strength, and the nurses who worked under her will not readily forget her example. The cause of her death was enteric fever, which she unfortunately contracted soon after Christmas, and to which she succumbed last week. She was laid to rest on the afternoon of Saturday, the 13th inst., and the presence of many of the hon. medical staff of the Hospital, and a large number of nurses, testified to the esteem in which she was held.

The death of Miss Mary Josephine Power, a young nurse attached to the Nursing Home of Miss Morgan, Quarry Place, Shrewsbury, took place on March 6th, under very sad circumstances. She was severely burnt on February 25th, while nursing some students in the Sanatorium, Wellington College, owing to her apron igniting. She was removed next day to Miss Morgan's Home, where she had every possible attention, but died on March 6th from shock and blood poisoning consequent upon her injuries. At the subsequent enquiry Miss Morgan stated that the deceased had been with her about fifteen months, and she had found her an excellent nurse in every way.

The Medical Aid Society.

The annual meeting of the Medical Aid Society for Necessitous Gentlemen was held on Wednesday, 10th March, at 18, Grosvenor Square, W., by kind permission of Mrs. Benyon. Mr. Archibald Campbell presided. As the name implies, the work of the Society lies amongst ladies, especially those who are earning their own living, whose small means render them unable to pay the usual fees, and who are unsuitable as patients in public hospitals.

The report was presented by the Hon. Mrs. Maurice Glyn, Chairman of the Committee of Management, and some typical cases were given of ladies prevented from earning their own living through illness, who have been completely restored to health through the treatment given by the Society. It is a terrible fact that some of the ladies who apply for medical treatment are incapacitated not from disease but from starvation, and that a really good meal, provided daily, would work a better cure than medicine. The Committee hope that increased funds may be placed at their disposal for this purpose.

The Chairman reminded the audience that the work of women had widened on all sides of recent years, and, as their sphere widened, their difficul-

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