

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

Her Majesty has accorded her patronage to a bazaar and fête to be held at the Royal Dublin Society's premises, Ballsbridge, during the last week in May, in aid of Mercer's and the Orthopaedic Hospitals, Dublin.

"The Animals' Hospital Dogs' Brigade" is a new branch of Our Dumb Friends' League, and is intended to awaken practical interest in the League's humanitarian work. Owners of dogs enrolled as members of the Brigade will be presented with a badge, without which no dog will be allowed to collect.

In future, patients admitted to King Edward VII's Hospital for Officers, in Grosvenor Gardens, S.W., which is maintained as a free nursing home for eligible surgical cases only, will be able to be treated by any surgeon they may wish, provided such surgical adviser occupies a position on the staff of a London hospital.

On the invitation of the Governor, Mr. J. S. Argall, a very representative gathering assembled for the formal opening of the Plymouth Workhouse Infirmary last week. The guests were received in the dining-hall of the workhouse by the Governor (supported by two uniformed officials carrying historical old wooden maces) and Mrs. Argall, and included the Mayor, Mr. A. Edmund Spender, and the Chairmen of several Boards of Guardians, and representatives of public bodies.

In welcoming the guests, the Governor referred to the interesting history of the Plymouth Board of Guardians, which was one of the first places in England to establish a workhouse, and where a hospital for the poor was built in 1630, and was taken over by the Guardians in 1708. In 1894 the Guardians were called upon to make better provision for the sick poor, and eventually the foundation stone of the present buildings was laid in 1907. These consisted of an infirmary of four blocks, the nurses' home, and an administrative block. In going over the infirmary those present would be struck by the splendid way the contractors had carried out their work, but it must not be supposed that they had wasted the ratepayers' money. Many infirmaries built in recent years had cost far more. If Plymouth could afford to provide better sanitation, better housing of the working classes, better accommodation for the insane, it could afford suitable quarters for the sick poor. The opening of the new buildings was performed by Mrs. Argall, who was presented by the Superintendent Nurse, Miss Halliday, with a beautiful basket of pink and white flowers, tied with pink ribbons.

A charming little hospital, quite up to date, built by Mr. G. J. Fenwick at Pike's Hill, Lyndhurst, has been recently opened. It will be a very great boon to the district.

Legal Matters.

A CHARGE OF MURDER.

At the North London Police Court on January 13th, Violet Edith Cross, described as a nurse, was charged that she did "feloniously, and with malice aforethought, kill and murder her newly-born illegitimate male child on December 30th last, at 11, High Street, Highgate." Detective-Inspector Neil, Y, gave evidence in connection with the arrest. He said that on December 30th he went to 11, High Street, and saw the prisoner being taken in a cab by Detective-Sergeant Mitchell, and a nurse to the Great Northern Central Hospital, Holloway Road. From information which he received he went to 6, Bisham Gardens, opposite, and upon opening a box found in it a bundle of clothing and newspaper containing the body of a newly-born male child. He described the condition of the body, upon the left side of which was a gaping wound two inches long. The body was conveyed to the St. Pancras Mortuary, and the inquest adjourned until the 22nd inst.

On Wednesday, January 13th, the detective stated that he arrested the prisoner on her discharge from the Great Northern Central Hospital, and, after cautioning her, informed her that he had to take her into custody on a charge of the wilful murder of her newly-born male child on December 30th. When charged at Holloway Police Station, she said, "I don't deny the child is mine, and the box is mine, where it was found. . . I don't remember what I did, I was in such a state of mind: I have no recollection." After this evidence had been taken, the Magistrate, Mr. Rose, ordered a remand for seven days, as the prisoner had only come out of hospital that day.

OBTAINING MONEY ON FALSE PRETENCES.

At Norwich Quarter Sessions, Gertrude Wright was charged on January 13th with obtaining £4 6s. from Mrs. Catherine Mary Jones, of 95, Dereham Road, on false pretences. It will be remembered that when committed for trial she appeared in the dock in nursing uniform, although, when arrested, she was a ward maid at the Yar-mouth General Hospital. There were several previous convictions against her for a similar offence, and one for felony, and she was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment in the second division.

A CHARGE OF THEFT.

On Wednesday, January 13th, Mary Baker, stated to be a nurse, was brought up in custody, on remand, before Mr. Francis in the Westminster Police Court.

For the accused Mr. Duerdin Dutton said she had proved herself a "fit and able nurse," but she was occasionally affected by a serious accident to her head, which she had sustained in 1893. Dr. Ferrier was prepared to depose that at times she was not responsible for her actions. He asked for her to be dealt with under the Probation Act, having to be reported at a future period.

Mr. Francis said that he wished to be as lenient

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