

## Reflections.

### FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

Her Majesty the Queen has sent her annual subscription of £5 to the British Orphan Asylum, Slough.

It was announced, at the annual meeting of Queen Alexandra's Sanatorium at Davos, that Lord Strathcona had given a donation of £2,000. It is necessary to raise another £6,000 in order to open the sanatorium free of debt in the autumn. The King has given special permission for the Royal Arms to be placed on the building in stone.

Queen Charlotte's Hospital has received an annual subscription of £5 from the Queen, who is the Patron of the Charity, and £5 from the Princess of Wales (Vice-Patron).

Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales has graciously intimated her intention of visiting the Great Northern Central Hospital on Monday, February 22nd, in the afternoon, to open the new ward for children provided through funds collected by the Ladies' Association, of which her Royal Highness is the President.

Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein will open the new wards for children at the Royal Portsmouth, Portsea, and Gosport Hospital at Portsmouth on February 3rd.

A Franco-British Charity Bazaar and Fête will be held on June 9th to 12th at the White City. The fete has already received the patronage of the Queen and the French Ambassador. The offices of the fete are 199, Piccadilly.

It is hoped to complete the first part of the work of transferring King's College Hospital from Clare Market to a site on Denmark Hill within eighteen months. A sum of £200,000 has been raised for the removal fund, and the intention is to press forward the building of the casualty and out-patients' wings, and so provide as soon as possible a boon for the South of London.

Every effort is to be made in Nottingham to popularise Hospital Sunday. At a recent meeting to consider the programme Mr. Charles Seely hoped the "agents" would make it their business to become thoroughly acquainted with the work of the General Hospital, and suggested that they should be kept continually informed of what was being done at the institution. He assured them that the authorities would be glad to assist in every possible way.

### WELCOME HELP.

We beg to acknowledge with many thanks the following donations towards the expenses of the Nurses' Registration Bill:—

|                            | £  | s. | d. |
|----------------------------|----|----|----|
| Mrs. R. S. Bartleet ... .. | 1  | 1  | 0  |
| Lancelot Andrews ... ..    | 10 | 0  |    |
| Miss Sixsmith ... ..       | 5  | 0  |    |
| Miss A. E. Gill ... ..     | 2  | 6  |    |
| Miss G. J. Challis... ..   | 1  | 0  |    |

## Our Foreign Letter.

### IN THE GESU MARIA HOSPITAL, NAPLES.



On New Year's Eve orders came that we were to receive some hundred sick and wounded from Messina. The

nuns, servant nurses, and our pupil nurses (Miss Baxter's "Croce Azzurra" Training School) all worked vehemently in moving our male medical patients into one unused ward and the male surgical ones into another. Several convalescent women patients were sent away, that their beds might be given to the earthquake victims, and a newly set-up "clinical pathological" ward was also placed at the disposition of the surgeons for the same object.

During the next week they were brought in daily—or, often, nightly; brought, as a rule, in automobiles (lent by their owners), wrapped in blankets, dazed, covered still with the dust of the ruins in which they had been buried, and their clothes—or, rather, their one chemise or night-gown—stiff with blood. They were carried up to the medicating room and their wounds dressed or fractures set, restoratives or hypodermics given, and laid at last in a bed which must have then seemed a haven of rest. As our hospital is very poor, and possessed only about half-a-dozen hot water bottles; we had asked a friend to send some Curaçoa stone ones, so were able to warm every bed.

The question of dealing with so many extra patients was a serious one; the Suore sent for more "consorelle" to join them, and left the new, inexperienced ones with the old patients. They called in also several "strardinari" servant nurses; and Miss Baxter and myself decided on accepting the offer of some "voluntaire" to work with our pupils. The first two or three days were rather desperate, for no one quite knew what was her or his especial place, as the surgeons kept calling off the nurses and the wards were overrun with visitors. The Queen Mother motored down from Rome and spoke to every patient, listening to the story of several. Also the Duchesse d'Aosta came and later on her husband; finally, the Archbishop made a pastoral visit, and after that things gradually settled down into routine, and it became possible to keep the staff of nurses fairly to their post—a feat unattainable by Mother Superior or Direttore when Royalty appeared! I wondered what an English Matron would have thought had she been in our place and seen the ward-maids and orderlies inserting themselves amongst the Queen's entourage. But neither Miss Baxter nor myself are now surprised at anything in this profoundly democratic country.

Regarding the question of volunteer nurses, our experience is extremely interesting, and has confirmed my belief that here, as in most matters,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)