

### Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The King held the Dissolution Council at Buckingham Palace on Monday last, and the whole country is now engaged in a monumental struggle for political power, as the General Election is in full swing. Although women (even the poor old "chairs," we suppose) are pronounced far too dainty to record a vote, they are everywhere in the front ranks of the scrimmage, at the instigation of the men to whom they belong. What a world of humbug it is to be sure!

The British Red Cross Society has published in pamphlet form the address given by Surgeon-General Sir Alfred Keogh, Director-General of the Army Medical Service, at a meeting held at St. James's Palace recently. The pamphlet is illustrated with plans and diagrams, and appended to it are specimen courses of instruction and lists of equipment which various units will require.

Mr. M. L. Waller, of the Home Office, has been appointed H.M. Commissioner of Prisons for England and Wales, in succession to Dr. H. B. Donkin, who retires under the age rule.

The late Miss Morrison, of Basildon Park, has bequeathed £5,000 to the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, free of legacy duty.

Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Webb have a new book nearly ready with Messrs. Longmans dealing with "English Poor-Law Policy."

An appendix volume has been issued containing the reports of visits by the Commissioners to Poor-Law and charitable institutions and to meetings of local authorities in the United Kingdom.

One of the grandest schemes ever devised by a municipality has been sanctioned in respect of Paris. It involves a sum of £36,000,000, the expenditure of which is to be spread over eighteen years at the rate of £2,000,000 a year. Practically it means that Paris is to be brought up to date. Complaints on the subject of Paris water are historic; it is proposed to remove their just cause. By the sinking of new wells, by the tapping of new sources; and by superior methods of filtration, Paris hopes to live down its evil reputation for a microbe-infested drinking water. Two millions go to new hospitals. The care of the sick has not been scientific in the past; the buildings are old and insanitary, and most inadequate to the purposes for which they are intended, if one compares them with English and American institutions. They are to be reconstructed on modern hygienic lines.

We hope it is not proposed to sweep away all the old and picturesque streets, some of which date back to the days of Henry IV., so full of historic and artistic interest.

### Nurses' National Journals.

One of the most admirable of the League Journals is that of the Leicester Infirmary Nurses' League, and the one just to hand is fully up to the usual standard of excellence. The frontispiece is a picture of the beautiful new Nurses' Home, which it is hoped will be opened at the end of this month by Mrs. Fielding Johnson, and Miss Rogers anticipates that many members of the League, when they see it, will want to become pro's again.

Miss L. L. Dock, Hon. Vice-President of the Leicester Infirmary Nurses' League, contributes an admirable article on the subject of League and Alumnae Journals, which we publish below in full, in which she urges nurses to give loyal support to their National Organs. She writes:—

Nothing gives plainer proof of the modernised character of the nurse's calling than the number of nursing journals that have arisen in the different countries. Our national organs in England and America\* seem to have had the effect, among their other functions, of starting a whole crop of smaller, more individual publications belonging to Leagues and other special groups, and this is a very excellent and hopeful growth, showing that unity of purpose and feeling for co-operation is extending among nurses, and that they feel the need of being in close and ready touch with one another. Moreover, these local journals, voicing the interests and chronicling the doings of their special groups, are good practice schools, where young nurses learn to write for publication, manage business affairs, and prepare for future usefulness on lines larger than individualistic concerns, just as our League and Alumnae Meetings are schools for debate, clear thinking, ready expression, and harmonious united action.

It would be an excellent plan for a system of exchanges to be carried on between League and Alumnae journals. Many of them are of special excellence, and all are interesting as throwing light on what nurses are doing. Each group conducting a journal could thus gather files of all the other journals for their club house libraries or for their reading rooms in nursing homes and institutions. Such collections would have great historical value. Every little while a new League or group journal appears, and as a rule, the first numbers of a publication are the ones that are soon out of print and most difficult to find in making complete records, so that all journals should try to provide a good number of extra copies of early numbers to be ready for later calls for complete files.

Our interest in our own local journal, however, should make us all the more intelligent about the necessity of supporting our national journals. The intelligent man not only reads his local newspaper but the publications of larger reach as well, and every nurse should learn to realise what her national magazine means, and what its task is in the whole nursing field.

Great changes are going on in nursing. Great

\* THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING and *The American Journal of Nursing*.

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