

## Reflections.

### FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

The King has granted his patronage to the Miller General Hospital for South-east London.

The King has appointed Colonel Sir H. Perrott Secretary-General of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England, in place of Colonel Sir H. Jekyll, who has been promoted to Chancellor. His Majesty has appointed Mr. W. R. Edwards Secretary of the Order.

Lord Claud Hamilton, M.P., the High Steward of the Borough, last Saturday opened at Yarmouth the King Edward Children's Ward, which has been added to the Hospital in that town as a memorial to his late Majesty. The foundation-stone was laid by King Edward when he was Prince of Wales, 23 years ago.

As a memorial to King Edward VII. Dr. J. H. Bartlet, President and Consulting Physician of the East Suffolk Hospital at Ipswich, has forwarded to the Committee of Management a cheque for £1,000 in endowment of a bed.

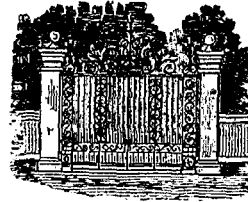
The treasurer of the Bristol General Hospital has received from Mrs. William Proctor Baker a cheque for £5,000 a portion of a promised gift of £10,000, to provide a new ward to be dedicated to the memory of her late husband, who was chairman of the institution, and under whose guidance the hospital made marked progress. Mr. Baker was once Lord Mayor of Bristol. Mrs. Baker has also made a gift of £10,000 to the Sanatorium for Consumptives at Winsley, near Bath, £8,000 to clear off a mortgage on the building, and the remaining £2,000 to provide additional accommodation for the staff and increase the number of beds for patients.

On the 23rd ult. The Allan A. Ryan Home Hospital for Consumption, Pigeon House Road, Dublin, was opened by his Excellency Lord Aberdeen. This Hospital is due to the generosity of an American-Irishman, who offered to Lady Aberdeen the necessary funds to start and equip it. It is for the more advanced cases of tuberculosis. It is a real "Home" Hospital, being most tastefully and comfortably furnished. Nothing seems to have been forgotten that could in any way conduce to the welfare of the poor people suffering from this depressing illness. Lord Lonsdale has given four shelters for those who are able to take advantage of them. The whole place is very up-to-date, and should prove an immense boon to the City of Dublin, as except the Union Infirmaries, it has no Hospital for the treatment of advanced cases of tuberculosis.

The following night a most successful ball was held in the Rotunda Ballroom in aid of the funds of the Women's National Health Association for Ireland. It was very largely attended, a great number of visitors who were over for the Horse Show being present.

## Outside the Gates.

### WOMEN.



A very interesting Conference on Infantile Mortality was held last week in Dublin under the auspices of the Dublin Branch of the Women's National Health Association of Ireland under the presidency of the Countess of Aberdeen, President of the Association, and many interesting meetings took place.

Lady Aberdeen said that, though the infantile death-rate in Ireland was considerably lower than in England or Scotland, yet in the towns the death-rate was high. In England the average infantile death-rate was 126 per 1,000, in Scotland 116, and in Ireland 92, but it was considerably higher in the large cities, being 141 per 1,000 in the first year of life in Dublin, in Belfast 139, and in Cork 126. The medical profession considered that the rate from unpreventable causes should not exceed 40 per 1,000.

The Corporation of Dublin had just adopted the Notification of Births Act, and were now considering a scheme to make this Act effective through their Health Visitors, aided by voluntary workers. The Association desired to put itself at the disposition of the public authorities in this matter, so that it might prepare to train voluntary workers, who would be ready to act under the official health visitors and medical officers in this all important work of visiting the mothers as soon as possible after the birth of the children, and voluntary workers were needed, prepared to act under orders.

The Conference was reported at length in the *Irish Times*, and our account is compiled from this and other sources of information in Ireland.

### Mrs. BERTRAND RUSSELL.

The Hon. Mrs. Bertrand Russell, one of the founders of the St. Pancras School for Mothers, then addressed the meeting, and said that the question of the health of infants was brought into prominence at the time of the South African War, when from 40-60 per cent. of the young men who wished to become soldiers were rejected on account of their health. The Commission concerned with this question found that the key to the situation was the delicacy of infants and the deficient knowledge of the mothers. The mothers in this country had not proper education for their duties. Unlike men, women did not get technical training. Most women, rich or poor, entered on the sacred duties of motherhood with practically no sort of preparation. That did not matter so much in the case of women who were well off, and who could employ the services of a highly scientific nurse, and who could engage a skilled doctor when the child was sick. In the case of poor women, who could not employ skilled assistance, the neglect of that education was found to have had a very bad effect on the health of the children. The infantile mortality rate was as high as it was 70 years ago. Moreover, wherever the death-rate was high, the damage rate

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)