

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

Prince Alexander of Teck has accepted the invitation of the Governors of the Middlesex Hospital to succeed his late-lamented brother as Chairman. As it was the ambition of the late Prince Francis to raise an endowment fund adequate to meet the annual expenditure of the hospital, such a fund will be raised to his memory. Prince Alexander is determined to carry out the work which was so dear to his brother, and has already received donations of £105 from the King and £100 from the Queen.

Amongst the representatives of the Middlesex Hospital invited to attend the funeral of the late Chairman, Prince Francis of Teck, at Windsor, by command of the King, was Miss A. Lloyd Still, the Lady Superintendent. Miss C. Nelson Smith and the nurses who attended the Prince at 15, Welbeck Street were also honoured by the same command.

The King has become patron of the West London Hospital, Hammersmith Road, W.

We are asked by Sir William Treloar to remind our readers of the distribution of Christmas hampers and clothing to poor crippled children in the Metropolis through his Little Cripples Christmas Hamper and Clothing Fund, donations toward which may be sent to him, addressed to the Fund, at 69, Ludgate Hill, London, E.C. Every year for the last sixteen years Sir William Treloar has, at Christmas time, entertained some 1,200 poor children at the Guildhall, and despatches the welcome hampers to his little clients on the morning of the day when the Annual Banquet is held. His Majesty the King is again this year continuing his annual subscription to the fund.

At the quarterly meeting of the Governors of Leicester Infirmary, at which the Chairman, Sir Edward Wood, who has done so much for the institution, presided, in the Recreation Room of the Nurses' Home called by his name, the House Governor, Mr. Harry Johnson, reported that the "Gertrude Rogers Ward," named after Miss G. A. Rogers, who for 26 years had served the institution most faithfully as Lady Superintendent, had now been opened for the reception of surgical cases.

Mr. C. J. Bond, who supported the adoption of the report moved by the Chairman, remarked that the only way in which the enormous expense of keeping up a large hospital could be limited was by providing more home hospitals for patients of moderate means.

The Dundee Woman's Hospital Bazaar was brought in a tidy sum for the benefit of the institution. The total drawings for the two days were £1,743 14s. 8d.

The delegates to the Fourth International White Slave Congress, held last week at Madrid, had a most courteous welcome, being received at the Royal Palace by the King and Queen. The next Congress will be held in London in 1913.

Our Foreign Letter.

CALAMITOUS LEGISLATION IN NEW YORK.



DEAR MADAM,
For a long time I have been trying to snatch the time to send you some word about the extraordinary piece of re-

action that we have had here in social matters. Your recent editorial shows that you have received printed matter relating the story of the calamitous legislation which was enacted last winter by the New York Legislature—nothing more or less than State regulation and certification of prostitution for the City of New York. As yet it only applies to this one city.

Is it not a severe reflection on the boasted intelligence of our people that we are able to learn nothing from the experience of other countries? It does seem as if the testimony on state regulated vice was strong and ample enough to permit its classification as a fact, no longer disputable, such as that fire burns, water drowns, etc. But this is not the case. It is true that this piece of legislation was somewhat surreptitiously introduced; nevertheless, a good many social workers did know about it, and some tried to stop it, but the stupefying thing was that a number of the most prominent philanthropists, including settlement workers, women and men, and almost all of the Charity Organisation Society leaders, approved and supported it warmly, and still do so, although a hot fire is pouring upon them. So it is actually true that this vile legislation, passed to the joy and comfort of vile elements, and received with the greatest satisfaction by "men about town," has owed its success to the support of some of the most influential workers for what is called "social betterment." Is not that a strange situation?

This instance confirms a belief I have long held—namely, that all that is bad and wrong in the world is the fault of the good people. Good people are pusillanimous, or dull, or conceited, or illogical, and therefore they block real progress, and are entirely unable to prevent the strongly selfish but perfectly logical and systematic progress of those who work frankly for what they want, irrespective of theories or "social uplift."

Another lesson that has been vividly borne in upon me is the warning against taking one's self too seriously. A specialist in one line, becoming gradually convinced of his own infallibility in that line, presently thinks he is capable of infallibility in every other line, whether he knows the subject or not. I am sure now that one of the highest developments of intelligence is in knowing upon what subjects one is not an infallible expert, and in having the information of where to look for the particular kind of expert that is needed in a given case.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)