

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

Lady Juliet Duff, President of the Charing Cross Hospital Appeal Committee, is securing the co-operation of many influential members. Lady Wantage has sent a donation to the Appeal Fund of £1,000.

In this month's *St. Bartholomew's Hospital Journal*, Mr. Alfred Willett, consulting surgeon to the hospital, describes its Medical School as it was when he entered the hospital in 1857. Mr. Willett recalls many interesting incidents in connection with the School and the Staff. Of the late Dr. Frankland, he tells an amusing tale. "It cannot be said," he writes, "that Dr. Frankland was altogether successful in commanding the attention of his class. Of a most gentle and amiable disposition, he was too quiet in his ways, and so in conducting experiments (in chemistry) he was unable to control the discordant signs of approval or of disapproval at the success or reverse of his experiments.

"One turbulent scene is vividly impressed on my memory. Dr. Frankland, after discoursing on the properties of 'laughing gas,' said that at the conclusion of the lecture there would be a practical demonstration of its effects, which, he added, must take place in the open air. So, armed with bag and mouthpiece, he stationed himself at the foot of the Library steps and invited students to inhale it. Lively sparks, mostly second year men, who had got wind of what was up, saw their opportunity, pushing to the front got first chances, quickly sucking in some ten inspirations. They each in turn rushed off into the Hospital quadrangle, yelling and shouting at the top of their voices; gesticulating and leaping up in the air, they struck dismay into all about the place. What excited my suspicion as to the genuineness of this phenomenon was that the same students came up a second and a third time for more gas, a trick which Dr. Frankland seemed too flurried to notice. After some ten minutes of this scene of uproar, the Treasurer, Mr. Foster White, appeared in a towering rage, and bade Dr. Frankland instantly to cease his demonstration, and begged he would never repeat it."

Mrs. E. H. Soden, in a letter wishing the Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, enclosed a cheque for £100 in memory of Edwin Walter Taylor.

Dr. Kershaw, formerly medical officer under the Royton Council, has left £50,000 for a hospital for the district. It is hoped to spend £10,000 on the hospital and the rest on endowment.

Mrs. Gulielma Frances Moss, of Kirkstall Road, Ilford Avenue, Streatham, an authoress, and a friend of Ruskin, left £1,600, a freehold house, and the residue of her estate, which will apparently

amount to about £15,000, to the Bolingbroke Hospital, Wandsworth Common, S.W.

Lady Hardinge, who takes a great interest in hospitals and nursing, recently visited the Dufferin Hospital, Calcutta, where she was received by the Lady Superintendent, and members of the Committee, and went round the wards—speaking to many of the patients—as well as the maternity block, the nurses' quarters, and the operating theatre.

Legal Matters.

EMERGENCY STAIRCASES.

An inquest was held at the North Evington Infirmary last week into the death of an imbecile patient, aged 77, who was found at the foot of an emergency staircase on July 13th.

Mr. D. J. Smith, assistant medical officer at the infirmary, said that the death of the deceased was due to old age accelerated by the fall. The doors to the staircases were kept shut, except at night, when the patients were all in bed and the nurses always in the wards; in the day-time they were opened only by the direction of the nurses. On the day of the accident the Sister had her usual half-day off, and the nurse in temporary charge was too careless. She had left the institution for some months.

The Coroner remarked that had the nurse still been there she ought to have been censured.

A verdict in accordance with the medical evidence was returned.

ALLEGED FALSE IMPRISONMENT.

Miss Margaret Rankin, said to be a nurse, brought an action for damages against Dr. Mahoney, at the Court of Passage, Liverpool, in August last, in which she alleged conspiracy to put her away in an asylum. The case ended in the discharge of the jury, who disagreed, and Miss Rankin made an application at the Sessions at Liverpool last week to have her case heard during the Session of the Court. She complained strongly of the delay. Her application was opposed by the defendant's solicitor, who had applied to the Court of Appeal on certain points of law connected with the previous hearing.

The Judge said that he appreciated the hardship but could not try the case till the appeal was disposed of.

A TERRIBLE TRAGEDY.

The death by drowning of a little child at the Belfast Workhouse, during the absence of the nurse, was the subject of an inquest on Tuesday. A little girl, aged nine, deposed that she with a girl named Turk, took the child to the bathroom and put her into the bath. They turned on the water, having found the key on a window ledge. She alleged that the girl Turk struck the child with a stick, and with the bath key, because she would not be quiet. When the nurse was called the child was dead. The jury returned a verdict of death from misadventure. We hope the Guardians will take steps to render so terrible a tragedy impossible in future.

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