

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

The King will open Parliament in person on February 6th. The Queen will drive with his Majesty from Buckingham Palace, and it is understood that the Prince of Wales will also attend at Westminster.

The King has been pleased to become Patron of the Fresh Air Fund.

The memorial concert to be given at Queen's Hall on the 24th inst. in aid of the Prince Francis of Teck Fund for the endowment of Middlesex Hospital has been arranged by Miss Alys Bateman, and Verdi's Requiem will be rendered by the Brighton Choir and Festival Orchestra of five hundred voices and instruments, conducted by Mr. Joseph Sainton, with Miss Bateman taking the soprano solos.

The accounts of the Hospital Saturday Fund for 1910 closed on the 9th inst. The amount received on that day was £5,471, bringing up the total for the year to £34,736. This sum is £4,074 in excess of the collection for 1909, and shows the largest annual increase since 1890, when the penny-a-week system of collection was introduced.

The Hospital for Women in Soho Square, of which the Queen is Patroness, was thronged with visitors on Friday, Jan. 13, as the guests of Mrs. B. Elkin Mocatta, and the Ladies' Executive. The rebuilding of the hospital has cost £22,500, and has now 67 beds, and admits monthly 100 in-patients, and 500 new out-patients monthly. Many supporters of the hospital were present, and greatly admired the beautiful wards, and all the up-to-date appliances.

The King has sanctioned the prefix of "Royal" being continued in the case of the Royal Portsmouth Hospital, the right to use which was recently questioned by the Home Office, though the title had stood unchallenged for sixty years.

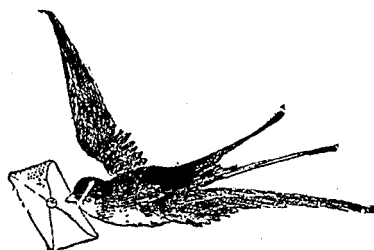
The Bethnal Green Free Library is the richer by the gift of some 50 volumes from the library of the late Miss Florence Nightingale. Many of these deal with social economics.

The following managers were re-elected at the annual meeting of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh: Mr. W. A. Tait, C.E., Mr. Walter Bell, Lady Susan Gilmour, and Dr. J. O. Affleck, and Sir Robert Cranston, K.C.V.O., and Mr. Alexander James elected.

Mr. William Strang Steel, of Philiphaugh, Selkirkshire, who died on January 2nd, has bequeathed to the Western Infirmary of Glasgow £5,000, and to the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, £2,500.

Our Foreign Letter.

A VISIT TO THE MEDICAL MISSION HOSPITAL, IN PESHAWAR.



Peshawar, unless you have been there, only conjures up an Indian frontier station, with a large military cantonment and exciting

raids by the Khel tribes from across the border.

My experience was far more varied, and took place at a time of year when Peshawar was one vast garden, full of the most lovely flowers. The blossoms of the orange and lemon trees scattered their fragrance far and wide. Many of the private houses were hidden from the road behind banks of arum lilies, and the Cashmere rose, with its waxen white petals—not unlike our English clematis—covered the pergolas in rich profusion.

The early spring flowers, crocuses, tulips, and daffodils flourished, as I had never seen them do before in India. Almost every flower that is met with in our country cottage gardens, was growing in the compound of the Medical Mission hospital, where Dr. Hugh Lancaster reigns supreme, by the force of his gentle and generous disposition, quite as much as by his gift of healing and skill in surgery.

The Peshawar Mission Hospital is the monument to his energy and perseverance. The site was granted by the Government, and Dr. Lancaster collected the money to defray the expenses of building. The hospital is situated on ground rather higher than the surrounding locality, and commands a view of the Sufad Koh (White Mountain), which stands out like a white maiden, among her darker sisters.

The buildings comprise a large serai and wards built round a courtyard.

There is a well equipped theatre, which has been the scene of many good operations; and accommodation for the assistant staff.

The serai is a large, lofty hall, where intending patients and their friends, who come from great distances across the hills, find shelter. The patients could not travel alone, so very often a whole family will come and take up their quarters in the serai, when they are provided with food at very small cost.

There are single wards, and the larger ones hold ten or a dozen beds, and this is about all the furniture they contain.

Cataract is a common disease among the frontier people. Fifteen to twenty cases were often operated on before breakfast of a morning, and it was pitiful when a patient arrived with both his eyes seared out by hot irons, yet hoping against hope that the great doctor would be able to do something to give him back his sight.

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