

patients, and it was noted as providential that not one of the nuns, professional staff, or attendants suffered in the slightest degree. Encased in the fragile forms of the black-robed nuns of the Mater were hearts as heroic as they were holy, as fearless as they were tender. When the storm had passed, a public meeting was called to express the heartfelt gratitude of all sections of the citizens, and subscriptions rolled in so promptly that the erection of another wing was begun in 1869, and in two years fifty more beds were made available for infectious diseases.

During the appalling epidemic of smallpox in 1872, at the entreaty of representatives and of the people at large, the portals of the Mater were again thrown open, and every effort possible was made to rescue while the faintest hope remained, and when all became hopeless almost superhuman exertions were made to fortify the dying on their passage to eternity. About eight hundred cases were nursed with devotion and tenderness, and when troubles had ceased one reflection was bitterly painful to the holy sisterhood. It was caused by the circumstance that some of the patients in the ordinary wards caught the infection, and a stern rule has been enforced ever since, and smallpox sufferers can never again be received. It can at once be understood that conscientious concern for the safety of others is the sole cause of such an imperative law.

The Mater is a magnificent structure built in the Grecian style of architecture. Its grand entrance and façade, 240 feet in length, are noble and majestic. The eastern and western wings are 300 feet each in length. There are 32 wards, having space for nearly 400 beds. Specialists deal with every form of disease, and there are now 100 trained nurses on the staff. Little idea can the general public have of the weight of responsibility that devolves upon the Rev. Mother and her community. The maintenance of and the unceasing anxieties involved in the management of an institution of such magnitude would test the capacity of the ablest heads and the resources of millionaires.

The Mater is a national hospital and a glorious illustration of Irish charity. At this period of her golden jubilee the Irish people are invited to give of their devotion, faithfulness, and gratitude, and remember that the Divine patroness of the Mater is the Mother of the God of Infinite Mercy and of all creatures fashioned to His likeness, no matter how shattered, weary-worn, or sin-stained.

## REFLECTIONS

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

All the medical schools attached to hospitals open next week, and celebrate the event with social and professional gatherings.

The buildings of the new King's College Hospital at Denmark Hill are gradually rising. The structures of the out-patients' department and of the large central block containing all the administrative offices, the nurses' home, and the main hospital corridor are practically complete. The medical school and other necessary buildings have not yet been begun, and in view of the amount of work to be done it is not expected that the Hospital will be complete until the year after next.

The City of London Guardians have voted to refer back to the Finance Committee the recommendation to give an annual donation of £21 to the London Hospital, because it added to its funds from the proceeds of Cinematograph shows given on Sundays. The statement was made that by reason of its injudicious action in taking money from Sunday exhibitions, it had done a great deal to impair the success of the Hospital Sunday Fund. Many clergymen had expressed their determination that if the hospitals continued to receive such moneys they would cease to take the same interest in the Hospital Sunday Fund.

A statistical report on the ordinary expenditure of 106 London hospitals for the year 1910 has been issued by Sir Savile Crossley and Mr. Frederick M. Fry, the Hon. Secretaries of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London. Great economies have been effected in hospital management, and it is pointed out that these economies have been effected in spite of the development of new methods of treatment and the sustained rise in prices. The main portions of the report are devoted to a mass of detailed statistics illustrating the ordinary expenditure, composed of such items as the cost of provisions, surgery and dispensary, salaries, wages, &c., in the different groups of hospitals with which the report is concerned. Mention is made of the fact that the total number of beds available was 9,949. The average number in daily occupation 8,443.47, the total number of out-patients 1,515,194, and the total attendances 4,925,169.

The Duchess of Devonshire has consented to be Lady President of the Derbyshire Children's Hospital for the forthcoming year.

The annual Poor Law Conference for the South-Western District will be held at Weymouth on October 5th and 6th. Sir Thomas Dyke Acland will preside.

Amidst much local rejoicing, the Lloyd Memorial Printers' Caxton Seaside Home was recently

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