

REFLECTIONS.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

After the great success achieved last year at the Savoy Theatre by the production of "The Belle of New York" by amateurs for the benefit of the funds of the Middlesex Hospital, the experiment is going to be tried again this year. A company of over seventy ladies and gentlemen are busy rehearsing a new and original musical play entitled "The Military Girl," written and composed by Charles and Muriel Scott-Gatty. This will be somewhat of a novelty, as the public will have the opportunity of seeing amateurs in an original play, and not imitating professionals in well-known characters.

Important medical bodies and others are considering the promotion of an International memorial to Lord Lister in Glasgow, in which city, while Professor of Surgery, he started his antiseptic treatment.

The Lord Mayor of London is presiding on February 28th over a meeting at the Mansion House with the object of raising funds for the extension of the London School of Tropical Medicine.

At the Annual Court of Governors of Charing Cross Hospital Mr. Robin Duff, the chairman, stated that the heavy mortgage debt, which had crippled the hospital had been reduced by £21,000, *i.e.*, from £85,000 to £64,000. It has been practically decided to open two of the closed wards for patients who can pay a small sum.

Lord Donoughmore, treasurer of the London Homoeopathic Hospital, Great Ormond Street, W.C., has received an annual subscription of five guineas from the Worshipful The Company of Carpenters towards the amount due to bankers of £6,500. The hospital has a deficit on the income and expenditure account to December 31st last of £1,624. Donations to reduce this deficit will be gladly received by the Treasurer.

The Governors of the Leicester Infirmary, at a meeting of the Board on February 21st, adopted the following resolution, which was moved by Sir Edward Wood, J.P. (Chairman of the Board), and seconded by Mr. T. Fielding Johnson, J.P. (Chairman of the House Committee):—

"That, in view of the information submitted to the Board of Governors of the Leicester Infirmary, a suggestion be made to the British Hospitals' Association to appoint a Committee to consider the advisability of the English Hospitals combining for the purpose of forming an Approved Society under Section 23 of the National Insurance Bill, and in the event of the British Hospitals' Association not being able to adopt this suggestion, the English Hospitals be circularised with a view to an early meeting being called to discuss the advisability of forming an Approved Society under

the Act, and a competent authority on the Bill be invited to address the meeting."

The matter was considered solely from the point of view of Hospital Employees, and the Board held that it is in the interests of every body concerned that an approved Society be formed in connection with the Hospitals.

A committee representative of the principal hospitals in Dublin have also stated their position in an appeal to the public, in which they say that the hospitals are threatened with a loss of income which can have only one result, to cripple and perhaps destroy the system of voluntary hospitals. The gravity of the crisis is described as extreme.

Speaking at the Annual Meeting of the managers of the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, and Royal Lunatic Asylum Corporations, Professor Davidson referred in seconding the report to the large increase in the number of those entering the asylum. He said: "I really do think that this matter of heredity will have to be faced before long by the State itself. Then apart from this sad aspect of it, namely—the increase in the number entering the asylum, we have the other and pleasant side, namely—the number of those who have been sent forth recovered."

THE FUSEHILL STRIKE.

The Local Government Board have communicated to the Carlisle Board of Guardians their decision with regard to the inquiry recently held, arising out of a strike by the Probationers at the Fusehill Workhouse Hospital, Carlisle, against their treatment by the Superintendent Nurse, Miss Kerwin:—

"They find that there was no justification for the conduct of the Probationer Nurses generally, in absenting themselves from the Workhouse without notice and without leave. Their desertion from duty caused the greatest inconvenience, was most prejudicial to the interests of the institution, and might well have had more serious consequences. It is clear from the evidence that any small causes for dissatisfaction which may have existed were very much magnified, and that there is no ground on which the Board would be justified in determining the appointment of the Superintendent Nurse, whose position, with that of the Charge Nurses, has, under recent conditions, been one of extreme difficulty. The Board understand that the Probationer Nurses have all given notice of resignation, but have remained at the Workhouse pending their decision on the present inquiry. In any event the Board could not have allowed them to retain office, and they must request that their employment may be terminated as early as possible. The Board think it may be convenient that their Inspector, Mr. Lowry, should confer with the Guardians as to future arrangements, and as to certain minor matters, for example the system of passes and dietary allowances to which reference was made at the inquiry."

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