

If the great hospitals laid themselves out to provide more paid accommodation they could provide more institutions, not only for the quite poor, but for the quite rich. He instanced the treatment of the Duchess of Connaught recently in a Canadian hospital, and asked if this was possible in Canada why not in England? Many people who needed operative treatment had not houses suitable for the purpose. The alternative was a nursing home. There were good nursing homes, but there were also very bad ones, and if someone turned his attention in Parliament to the inspection and registration of nursing homes he would be employing his time to great advantage. He had heard stories of such homes as would make one's hair turn. If hospitals made provision for paying patients there would be an end of nursing homes.

We fear that the noble Marquess does not appreciate the economic side of the question. The treatment of hospital patients is limited to the few members of the medical profession appointed on the staffs of these institutions, and if the paying patients of independent medical practitioners were driven into hospitals when seriously ill, they would be starved out of existence.

The same applies to trained nurses, who find a legitimate means of livelihood in maintaining nursing homes for the reception of paying patients. But we agree most sincerely with Lord Salisbury in believing that many nursing homes need mending or ending. The present evils arise from the fact that many of these homes are not managed by trained nurses at all, but are commercial speculations run by people with no knowledge of nursing. The remedy is to be found first in the legal registration of trained nurses, and the recognition only of those homes which are superintended and nursed by registered nurses.

After a cordial vote of thanks to Lord Salisbury, moved by the Senior Surgeon, Mr. Symonds, and seconded by Dr. Hale White, Senior Physician, the audience dispersed, adjourning first to the marquee and the terrace, where tea was served, and then to the wards, which were all in festal array, the light department, the dental school buildings (which during the last twelve months have been very greatly enlarged), the Henriette Raphael Nurses' Home, including the Preliminary Training School, the Gordon Museum, with its unique collection of wax models, and many other departments of interest, so that "God save the King," the signal that a very pleasant afternoon had come to an end, was played by the band all too quickly.

## REFLECTIONS.

### FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

Queen Alexandra, accompanied by Princess Victoria, paid a visit last week to the British Home for Incurables, at Streatham, and was received by Lord Strathcona, the president, and members of the board of management. Her Majesty made a thorough inspection, conversing with practically every inmate, and inspecting the work on the building of the Queen Alexandra wing, which is being erected to celebrate the jubilee of the home.

By invitation of Mr. H. J. Tennant, M.P., and Mrs. Tennant, a meeting was held on Monday at 33, Bruton Street, W., in aid of the building fund of the Nurses' Home at the Great Northern Central Hospital, Holloway Road, N. Mr. Tennant, who presided, said that the present arrangements for the nurses were not conducive to their comfort or their health, to economy or to efficiency. Dr. Alexander Morison, senior physician to the Hospital, spoke in support of the project, and Mr. Glenton Kerr, the Secretary, asked for £12,000, toward which they had 30 guineas.

One of the most distressing things in our public hospital wards is the knowledge of the approaching death of fellow patients. All that can be done is to place screens around the bed, but the atmosphere of approaching dissolution is thus demonstrated, and is most painful to sick people. This question was recently discussed by the Academy of Medicine at Paris, when the following resolution was adopted that "Measures should be taken so that patients should not be treated under circumstances compelling them to suffer by witnessing the spectacle of sufferings and death," as is the case in wards containing forty beds in the State hospitals of the Assistance Publique.

It was stated that the new hospital at Lyons is to be the most perfect in the world, and amongst the improvements it is to have separate rooms for patients who are in a hopeless condition. Professor Vidal, in reply to M. Pinard, who deplored that not a single hospital in France possessed any accommodation of this description, protested that his own clinic in the Hôpital Cochin provided patients with the last consolation of passing away in separate chambers; but he strongly objected to such rooms being called "rooms for the dying," since those who were transferred thither from the wards were immediately conscious that they would never leave them. The real need for such special rooms was rather in the interests of the other patients than of desperate cases, who were generally past caring about their surroundings. M. Mesureur, chief of the State hospitals, agreed with Professor Vidal.

On Thursday in last week Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein, who has always taken a great interest in the work of the Great Northern Central Hospital, paid a visit to the institution in the

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