

section 9 (4), which was inserted in the Act for the benefit of those completing their education. If this concession were made in the amending Act these probationary nurses would be entitled to the full sickness benefit.

REFLECTIONS

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

Princess Louise (Duchess of Argyll) last week opened the completed Hospital for Epilepsy and Paralysis, Maida Vale. The institution was founded in 1866, and as it was being constantly called upon to extend its work, the present site was acquired ten years ago. Up-to-date buildings have just been completed at a total cost of about £35,000.

Recently a gentleman walked into the board room of the Hospital, refusing his name, and handed Mr. Burleigh, the secretary, a bank-note for £1,000 for the building fund. Only £2,500 now remains to be provided to pronounce the hospital free from debt.

The National Association for the Prevention of Consumption and other forms of Tuberculosis will hold its fifth Annual Conference in the Central Hall, Westminster, S.W., on August 4th & 5th. The opening address will be delivered by the Right Hon. H. H. Asquith, M.P. Subjects of very great interest will be dealt with by such experts as Dr. H. W. G. Mackenzie, Professor G. Sims Woodhead, Professor Lydia Rabinowitsch-Kempner, Dr. Nathan Raw, and delegates from Canada, United States, Germany, France, Denmark, Italy, and Russia. The Conference will be divided into four Sessions. (1) Tuberculin Treatment, August 4th; (2) the necessity for the Co-ordination of Anti-Tuberculosis Measures, August 5th; in addition to the discussion special demonstrations illustrated by cinematograph will be given.

The late Mr. J. S. Fry, of Bristol—of the world-known firm of cocoa manufacturers—has left estate of £700,000; and charitable and religious institutions benefit to the extent of £148,800. A magnificent legacy of £25,000 goes to the General Hospital, Bristol; £5,000 to the Bristol Royal Infirmary, to the Jubilee Convalescent Home; and £2,000 to the Bristol Hospital for Sick Children. He has bequeathed various amounts to officials and senior members of the female staff of the General Hospital; £10 each to the Sisters serving at the time of his death, and to the male employees of two years' service; and £100 to be divided among the female domestic servants and laundry maids of two years' standing.

Looking back over his long term of service, Mr. Benjamin Whiteley, who has just retired from the position of dispenser to the Leeds General

Infirmary, recalls many things (in the *Yorkshire Post*), which, happily, have long been unknown. "When I entered the service of Leeds Infirmary in March, 1861," he says, "my duties were varied. I had to assist to take in 'accidents,' and take the patients to the wards, if serious; I had to serve out beer—most patients at that time had beer ordered for them. This was brewed on the premises. I remember old Thomas Brown, who had been porter and brewer for more than thirty years when I first went to the Infirmary. He had the buying and selling of the pigs which were kept to eat up the swill and part of the grains from the brewing. He was discharged for some wrong in the price he sold the pigs for. Afterwards he was quite demented, and used to get lost wandering about the streets."

Quite in keeping with this state of things was the system of nursing. "I remember an old nurse, Hannah, who had been over thirty years a nurse when I entered the Infirmary service. She was pensioned with 10s. a week. There were two or three nice, decent women as nurses, but most of them at that time were coarse and lewd in their talk, and could drink any amount of beer. They would get more beer than was ordered whenever they could, and drink it themselves. It was no uncommon thing for one to be discharged for being drunk, but at that time any poor widow woman was considered good enough for a nurse. One of the greatest changes in hospital work during the last fifty years is in the nursing staff. Now all are thoroughly trained and qualified for their work."

The mortuary arrangements were primitive, or worse. "I remember," says Mr. Whiteley, "the Deadhouse in the old Infirmary. It was below the ground level, and the way into it was down some steps in the garden. There were two rooms, spoken of as Deadhouse and Far Deadhouse. In the latter was Mary Bateman's coffin—her heart lay in it, which I have handled and shown to many people. Mary Bateman was hanged at York for poisoning, and her body was brought to Leeds Infirmary for dissection. I have heard Thomas Brown tell the story of it many times."

Mr. Herbert Whiteley, of Morngrove, Worcester, formerly member for Ashton-under-Lyne, has given £1,000 to the Blackburn Infirmary, for the endowment of two cots in memory of his mother, the late Mrs. Margaret Whiteley, of Blackburn.

Dr. Herbert Williams, Medical Officer of Health for the Port of London, states in his annual report that plague among rats in the docks was again discovered last year—that being the fifth year in succession. Of 1,310 rats bacteriologically examined 13 were found affected with plague. Last year 50,352 rats were destroyed on vessels in the Port and in the dock warehouses, making a total of 745,634 exterminated since the systematic destruction of rats was undertaken 12 years ago.

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