

REFLECTIONS.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

At the Twenty-fourth Annual prize-giving of the Salon at the Connaught Rooms last Saturday, the announcement that the Queen had named the eleventh cot founded and endowed by the Children's Salon after the Prince of Wales, was made by Mr. J. S. Wood, hon. director. The cot will be opened in the Edinburgh Hospital for Women and Children during their Majesties' visit in July. "Levana" (Miss May Bateman) who conducts the Children's Salon—"The children of the rich who work for the children of the poor"—congratulated the members on the progress they had made during the year in art, music, and literature, and spoke of the good achieved by the "Fairy Godmothers," rich little girls who took each a poor little girl under her care and wrote her cheery letters. Lady Alexander presented the prizes. The Salon was begun in *The Gentlewoman* nearly twenty-five years ago. The Royal children of many European Courts have been among its members.

At the annual meeting of the Belgrave Hospital for Children, Clapham Road, the Chairman announced that the forty cots in the Martineau (Babies') Ward, reopened by the Princess Royal last year, were now in use, and that very desirable end was to a great extent attained through the generosity of the trustees of the late Mr. Siegfried Rudolf Zunz, who placed a sufficient sum of money in the hands of the committee to relieve them of any immediate anxiety as to the maintenance of the Annie Zunz Ward. The committee most earnestly appealed to subscribers and all those interested in the welfare of the institution for increased support during the current year to enable them to keep all the beds in effective use. The cost of maintenance had been greatly reduced, and more patients were treated during the period under review than in any year since the foundation of the hospital. The average cost per week per in-patient was £1 17s. 10d. in 1912 and £1 10s. 7d. in 1913. The total ordinary income had risen from £4,206 in 1912 to £4,264 in 1913.

It will be remembered that notice was given by the Committee of the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital to the Coventry Corporation to terminate, at the end of this year, the agreement existing between the City Council and the hospital in reference to the treatment of diphtheria cases requiring the operation of tracheotomy. Certain correspondence has passed between the Sanitary Committee and the hospital in regard to this matter in which the Sanitary Committee suggested that in the event of the Corporation deciding to set apart some of the accommodation at the City Hospital for the reception of tracheotomy cases the Hospital should allow their staff to perform the operation. A conference took place between a sub-committee of the Sanitary Committee and the House Committee of the Hospital on

Wednesday, May 13th, when the following resolution was unanimously adopted: "The Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital undertakes to conduct the operation of tracheotomy in cases of diphtheria patients requiring operation at the City Infectious Diseases Hospital, and will assist in any emergencies arising from the treatment of such cases, the nursing to be provided by the city authorities and all expenses connected with such cases to be paid by them." This arrangement will now be put in force. It would be of advantage to the probationers in training at the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, if they might be permitted to work in the wards of the City Hospital and gain experience in the nursing of infectious cases, including those requiring the operation of tracheotomy.

THE TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS.

The Public Health Committee presented to the London County Council on May 26th the scheme which it has had in preparation since February last year for the treatment of tuberculosis among the non-insured population of the metropolis. Investigation has led the Committee to the conclusion that hospital accommodation is to all intents and purposes sufficient, but that this is not the case as regards sanatoriums. Nevertheless it is of opinion that the Council should not itself own and manage institutions but should use its funds to encourage existing institutions to extend their accommodation. It was stated in the report that for the present year there would be required 160 hospital beds and 240 sanatorium beds for adults and 150 beds for children. Many children suffering from surgical tuberculosis were being dealt with at children's hospitals, and the physically defective schools contained 1,500 such cases. By providing sleeping accommodation at open-air schools the Committee hoped to provide for most of the pulmonary cases amongst children. The Committee found it impossible to give a definite estimate of the possible number of adult cases, but it mentioned that as the Insurance Committee was dealing mainly with males, it was likely that the Council would have to provide principally for women. In order to earn the 50 per cent. Government grant the Committee proposed to include in its scheme about 2,300 tuberculous persons at present dealt with in poor-law institutions, and to provide treatment for them through the Metropolitan Asylums Board. An important feature of the scheme, which had received the approval of representatives of the governing bodies of hospitals was the formation of an honorary medical advisory board consisting of medical officers of the County Council and representatives of the hospitals, dispensaries and sanatoriums taking part in the scheme. The Board would advise the Council as to the types of cases suitable for the various forms of treatment and appoint a rota of physicians to act as medical referees in cases difficult to classify.

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