

REFLECTIONS

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

The Duchess of Albany has started a fund to raise £50,000 to celebrate the centenary (1816-1916) of the Royal Waterloo Hospital, Waterloo Road, S.E., which was founded in the year following the great battle.

The Executive of the County Councils' Association, last week, at a meeting at the Guildhall, Westminster, discussed the allocation of Government grants for tuberculosis and nursing. The Council strongly protested against the allocation of the £750,000 grant before it has been fully considered by Parliament and before the Chancellor of the Exchequer has heard the views of the Association. It was decided to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer to receive a deputation at once, and to invite the Association of Municipal Corporations to join in the deputation.

The Central Committee of the Women's Guild point out that as nursing is needed for the whole working class population, uninsured as well as insured, the Government grant should be made available for the whole of the community, and be administered through the Public Health Authority.

In the House of Commons last week, Dr. Chapple asked the President of the Board of Trade how many nurses seeking employment have registered their names at the Labour Exchanges; and how many have been found employment? Mr. Robertson replied: The total number of women registered at Labour Exchanges as nurses during the five months ended June 12th, 1914, was 799. The number of vacancies for nurses notified during the same period was 415, and the number of such vacancies filled by the Exchanges was 204.

Mr. Charles Chetwode Baily of Brighton, a great friend of the hospitals, has left £25,000 to charity. He left £10,000 to the Inalienable Fund of the Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, £5,000 to the special endowment fund of the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Brighton, £2,000 to the endowment fund of the London Hospital, £1,000 to the endowment fund of the Aberlour Orphanage, Strathspey, Scotland. As regards each of these bequests he requested (but created no trust in the matter) that each institution should name a bed or cot after him.

The Secretary for Scotland has intimated to the managers of the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, that His Majesty had consented that one of the principal wards should be designated "The King George and Queen Mary Ward," in commemoration of the recent visit of the King and Queen to the Infirmary.

HOW BIRMINGHAM CARES FOR ITS CHILDREN.

I. THE REMAND HOME.

The purpose of a Nursing Congress is not merely and solely to demonstrate the progress that has been made in the Nursing Profession through the Inner Circle—so to speak—of the work of our Councils. That is certainly the main purpose. But the fully trained nurse of to-day is an aspirant, who knows no stultifying limits and bounds. She is a "picker-up of Learning's crumbs." She is on the look-out for all such crumbs as will extend her own usefulness and make her more serviceable to humanity. The modern nurse is a social worker, and all social organisations may be resolved, in the last resort, into *health conditions*. As such she regards them, with her professional eye and mind.

At every Congress we make new friends—people whose valued services to the community bring them in touch with the social service branch of our own profession.

It was the good fortune of myself and Sister Henriette Arendt to meet Dr. George A. Auden, M.A., M.D., School Medical Officer of Birmingham, to whose kindness and courtesy we were greatly indebted, myself especially. He was interested—as so many people were—in Sister Arendt's wonderful work and life, and offered to show and tell her anything that would interest her; he took her to the Remand Home, and to the Children's Court. Dr. Auden, although extremely busy himself, most kindly gave me the same facilities on a separate occasion.

The Remand Home was built and opened in 1909 by Mrs. Barrow Cadbury, who presented it to the town. It is now under the management of, and supported by, the Watch Committee. All children taken up by the police for any kind of offence, are brought here, where they remain pending proceedings. Also, the N.S.P.C.C. very gladly make use of it, and it affords temporary shelter for waifs and strays. In fact, it serves the purpose of a much needed *Clearing House*! for all sorts and conditions of children. The Superintendent—Mr. Lee—and his wife, with one assistant, manage the Home, and, I was told, act as kind foster parents to the children. It is built in duplicate style; one half for boys and the other for girls, and can accommodate about thirty children. On the ground floor there is a Reception Room, where they are stripped and then immediately bathed in the adjoining bath-room. The building is, what it claims to be, a *home*, and looks it. There is nothing in the aspect or spirit of the place to suggest *punishment*. Every detail of construction and furniture has been carefully thought out. Not only is the furniture *suitable*, but the artistic taste of the generous donor is obvious, who doubtless considers environment as an important factor in the moral education of children.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)