

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The Bazaar recently held at the Portman Rooms, in aid of St. Mary's Hospital, has produced the rich harvest of over £5,000, which must be most satisfactory to the promoters, the stewards, and the ladies and gentlemen at the stalls, whose efforts were so enthusiastic and indefatigable. It was a beautifully arranged Bazaar, and we are glad it has resulted so successfully.

A movement to endow in perpetuity two beds at Guy's Hospital, in memory of the late senior surgeon of that Hospital, Mr. Arthur Durham, is meeting with good success. The first list of subscriptions amounts already to £1,000, but to make the scheme complete £2,000 in all is needed, so that it is hoped that the nucleus formed will grow speedily by further subscriptions being sent in to the Committee of the Durham Memorial Fund, Guy's Hospital.

At the Distribution of Prizes at Guy's Hospital, the master of the Salters' Company delivered an excellent address to the students in which he said that no vocation gave such scope to the wise and strong to help the poor and weak. The medical profession could not receive the same degree of honour as the profession of arms, yet doctors faced risks that were equal to a "forlorn hope," and sacrificed their lives in the performance of their duty. In asking for funds for the Hospital, he said that Guy's for 160 years had made no appeal to the public, but now, in consequence chiefly of agricultural depression, its position had become somewhat grave, and subscriptions and donations were urgently needed to carry on its work in a populous and needy district.

The Hospital Saturday Garden Party and Floral Fête, arranged by the Bristol Hospitals' Joint Committee, passed off very pleasantly, and it is hoped will materially benefit the Bristol Hospitals. A children's may-pole dance was very attractive, music, dramatic entertainments, and a display of fireworks illustrating "The Good Samaritan," made up a capital programme. Deputations of school children visited the gardens at intervals during the day, bringing with them garlands and bouquets of flowers to be distributed to the patients of the various Hospitals, for whose benefit the fête was arranged.

Nearly 5,000 ladies were out in the Metropolis carrying boxes and inviting the passers-by to contribute to the Hospital Saturday Fund. Good weather favoured their philanthropy, and a goodly sum is hoped for. An observant and admiring man remarked that "it was impossible to resist the blandishments and the boxes of these indefatigable collectors, and impossible to escape them. East and west, north and south, there they were, and quite as ready with their smiles of thanks for the copper of the working man as for the silver, or the rare gold of the aristocrat."

The "workshop collection," which constitutes the chief source of the Fund, will be continued weekly until the end of the year.

In face of the difficulty experienced in keeping up the gardens of the Royal Botanical Society in London, it is rather disconcerting to read that twenty-two Americans have subscribed the munificent sum of £50,000 to form a Botanical Garden in New York for the advancement of science. It is to be on a large scale, and will put our tiny Physick Garden at Chelsea entirely to shame.

The Life Saving Society gave a splendid exhibition last Saturday in the West India Export Dock. One of the most interesting "events" was a rescue drill on three rafts, and afterwards an illustration in the water with living subjects, showing the four methods of rescue under any condition. Twenty-five persons simulated those who were being drowned, and these, with twenty-five "rescuers," were all struggling together in the water. This was followed by an illustration of the best means of performing artificial respiration and resuscitating the drowned.

The Hospital accommodation in Edinburgh is so limited that it has been decided, in addition to enlarging the Royal Infirmary, to build a new City Hospital. A site at Craiglockhart has been provisionally selected by the Lord Provost and some of the Town Council. The grounds consist of some nineteen acres, so that ample space would be afforded on which to build a very fine modern model Hospital.

THE testimonial to Sir Joseph Lister, to be given to him by his former colleagues and pupils on the occasion of his retirement from the active staff of King's College Hospital, will be presented to him at the Hospital on Tuesday, July 30th, at 4 p.m. The presentation will be made by Sir John Eric Erichsen.

Writing to the *Lancet*, Dr. Lovell Drage, of Hatfield, expresses opinions concerning professional co-operation with which we are warmly in sympathy, and which we feel sure may be read by Nurses with advantage.

Dr. Drage says:—"Your leading article on the question of the position of Members of the College of Surgeons in respect of their College is singularly opportune. There can, I think, be little question that the policy pursued by the great corporations with reference to the great mass of the profession has not been well advised, and it is doubtful whether it would even have been allowed in any profession but our own. When I say the policy, I mean the policy of denying to the mass of the profession, corporate existence, and I condemn this policy because the success of any body of citizens must depend upon the individuals composing that body; it must depend upon their efforts and not upon the action of the comparatively few who have arrived at coveted positions.

The important question before the profession really is, What is the best method of quickening interest in affairs connected with the profession? At the present time the attitude assumed with regard to those who take an interest in professional politics is that they are the agitators, the riff-raff, the trades unionists of the profession. Now anyone who has in any way studied the Trades Unions questions must arrive at the conclusion that the working men of this country, notwithstanding grave faults made in the working and management of those unions, have achieved a gigantic success, not only with reference to themselves, but also with reference to the community. One has only to compare labour conditions in Continental countries with those in our own to appreciate the fact that the working men of this country, by adhering to the principles of co-operation, Friendly Societies, and Trades Unions, have saved this country from a large amount of suffering and trouble.

The best method, then, for advancing the interests of our profession must be one, I believe, which will induce each individual member to become alive to his professional responsibilities and to feel them. There is an association ready formed which has in it all the elements of success. I refer to the British Medical Association, which is representative and which is democratic in constitution. As yet this association has not become conscious of its latent power and force. In a few weeks it will be called upon to decide upon

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