

amount of work which a surgeon does, and the thoroughness which which he does it, by looking at his hands. The strong bi-chloride and permanganate solutions with which the hands are sterilized, after the epithelium has been faithfully scrubbed off with a brush, make the hands rough and horny. The hands of some of the operators and Nurses are practically incapacitated for work by this constant régime." We can only say that if our transatlantic cousins will forswear the "strong bi-chloride," and indulge in plenty of simple soap and hot water, they will find their operative results will be equally good, while their hands will certainly not be practically incapacitated from anything except dirt. We have learnt the lesson over here that prevention is better than cure; that cleanliness is the best antiseptic; and that we need to obviate the presence of germs altogether rather than to slaughter them after they have been permitted, by the supply of suitable nourishment, to live and thrive and have families by the million.

ARTIFICIAL LIGHT.

An old remedy for, or rather an old form of treatment of, smallpox has been recently revived in Sweden: it consists in the treatment of patients who are suffering from the disease by secluding them in a room from which the ultra-violet rays of light are excluded by red window panes, or red curtains. Many years ago the method was pursued in a modified form: patients afflicted with smallpox being kept in rooms from which all light was carefully shut out. The results then attained were stated to be that the pocks quickly dried up and comparatively little scarring resulted. But for some reason the treatment fell into disuse, apparently to a large extent, because of the patient's very natural objection to the constant darkness. The new plan, therefore, is only a modification of the old, in that light is admitted to the sick room but deprived of what are chemically its most important prismatic rays. It is difficult to understand the precise reason for the effects which are said to be produced, but there is unimpeachable authority for the statement that the treatment has been tried in twenty severe cases, ten of whom were children who had never been vaccinated, and that it proved completely successful in every instance: the eruption quickly drying up, the secondary fever being remarkably small, the recovery being speedy and complete, and very few scars being left. Such facts as these are practical, and are worth any amount of theory. If fuller experience confirms these results in all cases, it will be time enough to find a suitable theory to account for them, while the anti-vaccinationists will doubtless thoroughly enjoy themselves by adducing the remedy as a proof of the harmlessness of smallpox, and the lack of necessity therefore for vaccination. Meanwhile the glass makers who produce red panes may make their fortunes.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS the Prince of WALES will take the chair at the Festival Dinner in aid of the Special Fund for the Middlesex Hospital, to be held at the Whitehall Rooms of the Hôtel Métropole on the 13th inst.; it is therefore sure to be a successful and, we hope, remunerative gathering.

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THE German Emperor has sent a donation of £150 for the Convalescent Home at Castle-Hill, Ealing, in connection with the Association of German Governesses, Wyndham Place. This home was recently opened by Princess CHRISTIAN.

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PRINCE CHRISTIAN of Schleswig-Holstein will preside at the 49th Anniversary Dinner in aid of the German Hospital, Dalston, which will be held in the Whitehall Rooms of the Hôtel Métropole, on Thursday, the 12th inst.

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THE Duchess of TECK has promised to open a Bazaar in aid of the Corpus Christi College (Cambridge) Mission in South London, at the Mission Buildings, on Tuesday, May 22nd.

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LORD JUSTICE DAVEY has consented to preside at the Festival Dinner on behalf of King's College Hospital, to be held on Wednesday, May 2nd, in the hall of Lincoln's Inn. We hope he will plead the cause of the Hospital as eloquently and successfully as he did that of the Royal Charter of Incorporation for the Royal British Nurses' Association.

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MISS GRACE NEWBERRY has been appointed Matron to the Royal Hospital, Portsmouth. She was trained at St. Thomas Hospital, where she held the post of Sister. Miss NEWBERRY has also held the responsible positions of Night Superintendent and Assistant Lady Superintendent at the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool. We congratulate Miss BANN, the able Lady Superintendent of the Liverpool Royal Infirmary, upon the promotion which so many of her assistants obtain.

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SEVERAL changes have successively taken place lately in the *personnel* of the Liverpool Royal Infirmary—The appointment of Miss FERGUSON, of St Thomas's Hospital, to the position of Assistant Lady Superintendent; and also that of Miss RIGNEY, who received her training in the Institution, and held the post of Night Superintendent,

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