

LAVAGE.

ONE of the most valuable advances in medical treatment has been the practice of lavage, especially of the stomach. Of course the principle is based upon the antiseptic system—the necessity of rigorous cleanliness in order to ensure healing of open wounds and ulcers. In many cases of gastric ulcer, therefore, especially those due to alcoholism or anæmia, the greatest relief is afforded by washing out the stomach with sterilised water, so as to remove discharges and leave a healthy healing surface. A further advance upon this has naturally followed in the shape of the injection of solutions of bismuth. After the stomach has been thoroughly cleansed with a solution of bi-carbonate of soda, $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 drachms of bismuth sub-nitrate, suspended in fifteen ounces of water, are passed in, and the tube is then removed. Some recommend that the water should after a few minutes be carefully withdrawn, but as a matter of fact this is quite unnecessary, because the walls of the stomach will rapidly absorb it, and therefore the bismuth is allowed more quietly to deposit itself upon the inflamed and ulcerated mucous membrane.

THE SMOKER'S HEART.

It is a well-known fact amongst medical men that the excessive use of tobacco is apt to cause various nerve disturbances. For example, a special form of blindness, and the condition known as the smoker's heart, are examples of chronic poisoning by nicotine. The latter is usually found in those who smoke to excess, and who are more than forty years of age; and it shows itself by irregularity of the heart's action, together with a certain amount of weakness of the muscular walls. If, despite such premonitory signs of mischief, the patient continues to use excessive quantities of tobacco, there is undoubtedly danger of the heart's action becoming seriously and even permanently weakened. But there has been a considerable degree of exaggeration imported into the description, of this condition, which has been given by persons who denounce smoking altogether—an exaggeration which has taken the form of a pictorial representation, making the heart appear in shape more like a football than anything else in nature, and certainly unlike anything which is met with in the human species, alive or dead. And the accompanying text to this flight of fancy makes it appear that it is an every-day and common event for persons smoking in crowded thoroughfares suddenly to drop down dead. In fact, if one may judge from these descriptions, at least half the time of the police is occupied in removing these cases of sudden death, so as to prevent the consequent impediment to the traffic of our streets.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



It is believed that the results of this year's Hospital Sunday Fund will be very good indeed. But it is a good deal to expect £70,000 to be raised in the metropolis, considering that only £45,000 was forthcoming last year.

The Services at the larger Churches and at St. Paul's and Westminster Abbey were crowded, and the collections appear to be very satisfactory. Canon Wilberforce preached a fine sermon on the "Sonship of Humanity." He spoke of the discipline of trouble, of Goethe's description of "the awfulness of life," and dwelt on the physical illness and domestic troubles which go to build up character. He quoted these pathetic lines on pain:

"Pain comes, hopeless pain, God knows
And we know, again and again;
But e'en pain has its intervals blest,
When 'tis Heaven to be free from pain."

And he asked, "How can these intervals blest be attained except by providing the best medical assistance, the most skilled professional nursing, the ablest surgery within reach of the poorest classes of the community?" He characterised Hospital Sunday as the Saints' day of the healing art, appointed by the common consent of widely differing communities to be kept holy and sanctified by liberal gifts.

At Westminster Abbey the total collection for the day was £228. At St. Paul's Cathedral the three services brought £283 17s. 8d. to the Fund, St. Margaret's, Westminster, collected £161 1s. 11d., while Spurgeon's Tabernacle contributed £80.

At the meeting on Saturday to consider a local Accident Hospital for Battersea, Earl Spencer presided. Mr. John Burns, M.P., said that Battersea formed but one-thirtieth part of London, but it sent a greater number of cases to the Hospitals than any other district, and he moved a resolution that Bolingbroke House should be enlarged and used as their local Hospital. Hitherto Bolingbroke House has been a "pay Hospital," and for this reason the Battersea people object to the plan of amalgamation. They ask for a free Hospital, and they carried an amendment which rejected the Bolingbroke House scheme, but they consented that cases should be sent there temporarily until a new "free" Hospital can be built.

The annual parade of the Corps of Commissionaires was held on Saturday in the grounds of Chelsea Hospital when the Corps was inspected by Field Marshal Sir Donald Stewart.

The Duke of Cambridge, as President of the Foundling Hospital, attended morning service there on Sunday last and distributed good conduct rewards to those who were entitled to receive them. He also inspected the girls' and boys' dining halls, and gave a brief address:

Last Saturday afternoon fifteen squads of Volunteers belonging to corps in various parts of the country competed at Wellington Barracks for the Ambulance Challenge Shield, which last year was held by the Civil Service Rifles. The men were examined in drill, bandaging, first aid and anatomy,

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