

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



IT would seem as if the rich newspapers of this country might advantageously imitate the generous example of a large number of the United States "dailies." Throughout the country the newspapers organise and themselves carry out river, country, and sea excursions for sick children and their mothers, and for healthy town boys and girls who need change of air and scene. In the case of excursions for sick children with their mothers, these being organised in the very hot weather so as to get the little ones from the stuffy towns out into the country, or on lake, river, and sea, an arrangement is made that a certain number of doctors accompany each excursion.

Many of the leading drapers, grocers, and other tradesmen in American cities also organise and engineer children's excursions through the hot months, and those who do not themselves undertake the management contribute generously and enter the donations in their ledgers as "advertisements."

The *New York Tribune* has an admirably organised Fresh Air Fund, and from this sends poor children and young people away to farm-houses and dairies for a week or a fortnight's change. Many farmers are perfectly willing to receive the children and to feed them and provide for their wants free of charge. The *Tribune* now sends away about 15,000 children in the course of the year, away from the stifling, closed-in streets of New York, out to the fresh country and meadows, there to gather in not only health and vigour to help them through the trying winter, but some ideals and knowledge of nature and her wondrous ways.

American politicians also, feeling that the time-honoured custom of cadging for votes by "kissing the baby" is somewhat out of date, have substituted summer excursions for children at their own expense and "personally conducting" the expeditions, beam paternally on the youngsters, and by this means of playing on the tender maternal spot, hope to gain the votes of the father. The children do not stop to criticise the end, this being justified by the pleasant "means" of country change and unlimited dough-nuts.

The Local Government Board has decided not to give grants to medical men for successful vaccination except when the operation is done from arm to arm.

The Saturday Afternoon Class in connection with the St. John's Ambulance Association at the head-quarters of the Hospital Saturday Fund Association in Farringdon Road, and conducted by Dr. Tom R. Taylor, has just closed. Of the forty-four students who presented themselves for examination by Dr. Heaton C. Howard, twenty-nine passed.

At a recent meeting of the Council of the Hospital Sunday Fund a comparison was sought to be made between the cost per head of out-patients at various Hospitals. It was stated that at one Hospital each out-patient cost thirty shillings, whilst at another the cost of out-patients averaged threepence per head. There must surely be some error in these figures, or else in the hospital management. The average cost of an out-patient is usually estimated at threepence *per visit*.

At the Third General Meeting of Members of the British Medical Association in London the following resolutions were passed: "That the thanks of the British Medical Association be respectfully offered to her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen for permission to visit her Royal Palaces." "That the thanks of the Association be offered to her Royal Highness the Princess Christian for the interest and sympathy that she has shown with the Association in its sixty-third annual meeting."

There is a good deal of cholera in South Russia, and it is reported that the epidemic is spreading, and it has also broken out on the Austrian frontier. The precautions taken by the officials in Southern Russia for checking the epidemic have led to a number of encounters between the authorities and the inhabitants. As soon as the epidemic assumed serious proportions doctors were sent to the infected districts and temporary Hospitals for the sufferers were put up, but to this the people in many districts showed themselves very hostile, and force had to be used to check their anti-sanitary demonstrations.

It has recently been pointed out with reference to the alarming outbreak of cholera among the Japanese troops stationed in China that the seat of war is a fruitful ground for the propagation of disease of all kinds, and that cholera in particular develops in places where war is being, or has lately been carried on.

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