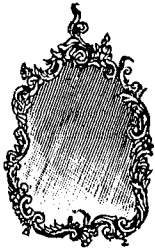


## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



OCTOBER 1st being the commencement of the Medical Session, introductory addresses were delivered in some of the schools attached to the London and provincial hospitals. At others the session was opened without formality.

At the London Hospital prizes were distributed to students and to the nursing probationers, the distribution being preceded by the presentation to Dr. J. Hughlings-Jackson of his portrait on his retirement from the office of Physician to the Hospital. The presentation was made and the students' prizes were distributed by Sir James Paget. The portrait and a copy of it for the Hospital, painted by Mr. Lance Calkin, were on easels on the platform, draped.

Mrs. Hale presented prizes and certificates to the Nursing probationers.

Sir J. Paget briefly addressed the students and the probationers, and, in some remarks upon Nursing, said that in former days he had met with many old women as Nurses, but he did not remember that there were ever any "new" women among them.

About £4,000 is needed to bring this year's Hospital Sunday Fund to a total of £50,000. The Lord Mayor has lately received, from Messrs. Lewis & Marks, £262 10s.; from "D. E. M.," £100, and from Mr. G. Pollock, £52 10s., towards this deficit.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge has consented to preside at a banquet at the Star and Garter, Richmond, on November 18th, in aid of the building fund of the Richmond Royal Hospital.

The Royal Edinburgh Hospital for Sick Children is nearly complete, and is to be opened this month, at a date not yet fixed, by H.R.H. Princess Henry of Battenberg.

Dr. W. Collingridge, the medical officer for the port of London, has just presented to the Court of Common Council his half-yearly report on port sanitary work. He states that during the period under review 12,715 vessels of all classes have been inspected, which is a large increase on former returns. Of these 496 were ordered to be cleansed, while 455 structural alterations were carried out on board 318. Of the total number of vessels inspected 10,752 were sailing under the British flag, the Scandinavian coming next in numerical order with a total of 802. During the half-year 27 cases of infectious diseases were removed by the medical officers at Gravesend, while 53 cases of cholera or choleraic diarrhoea were reported as having occurred on board vessels during their homeward voyages. The medical officers had also inspected 282 canal boats, carrying 720 persons.

The Caxton Convalescent Home, which the generosity of Mr. Passmore Edwards has provided at Limpsfield, Surrey, for the benefit of members of the printing and allied trades in London, was opened last Saturday. As yet only the central block has been completed. The Home will accommodate 70 inmates.

The present outbreak of scarlet-fever in the Metropolis should call the attention of the public to the good service done to the community by the London Fever Hospital in isolating and treating such patients, thus aiding in preventing the spread of these diseases. Owing to trade depression

there has been a heavy falling off in the support usually given to this excellent hospital, whose resources at this particular time are being largely called upon.

The hot weather is having a serious effect upon the public health in Sheffield. Zymotic disease has increased immensely, and there is much typhoid in the crowded parts of the town. The fever hospitals are crowded.

The death of M. Pasteur was by no means unexpected, his health having been seriously affected for some years past. Partial paralysis began in 1868, complicated since 1886 with heart disease and albuminuria. He has been a valuable contributor to the science of chemistry, although he has been better known for his bacteriological investigations.

An interesting correspondence has been going on in the *Times* on "The Prevention of Cholera." Col. Wylie writes from Khatmandu:—"Cholera was a perfect plague in this city until 1891, when his Excellency Maharajah Sir Bir Shumsher Jung, the Prime Minister of Nepal, introduced, at a cost of over six lakhs of rupees, a plentiful supply of pure water, brought in pipes from mountains six miles distant and distributed by means of standards and taps. Since then cholera has been absolutely non-existent in the city of Khatmandu, although it has broken out virulently in other parts of the Nepal Valley, including a very severe epidemic in the town of Patan, which is only two miles distance from here."

A shoemaker of Putney has been lately charged at the police-court with having placed for purposes of revenge a dead rat in the drinking cistern of a neighbour, where it was not found for a month, when owing to the water being discoloured and tasting badly, the cistern was cleansed. A more disgusting revenge could hardly be conceived. The evidence being only circumstantial the case had to be dismissed.

There has been a decided and continuous falling off in infant mortality within the past twenty-five years all over Austria.

A somewhat undignified encounter lately took place between two medical men at an inquest held at Brixton on the body of a man who committed suicide. It appears that Dr. Swan was sent for when the body was discovered, but he being out, Dr. Coles was summoned and pronounced life to be extinct.

At the inquest the two medical men were present, and Dr. Swan, who had not attended, was called to give evidence. He explained the circumstances and offered the fee to Dr. Coles, who refused to accept it, but at the same time expressed his indignation that he was not called to give evidence, considering it was he who attended the body. The following conversation took place in Court between the two medical practitioners:—

Dr. Coles: Don't you think it's a case of injured innocence—a bit of the dog-eat-dog about it? Dr. Swan: I don't like that; we are not dogs, but medical men. Dr. Coles, addressing the coroner, said: I want to ask you a question which I trust Dr. Swan will not consider personal. Some time ago in Jersey, I saw a man with a dog standing on the cliffs. He threw a stick into the sea, and the dog jumped from the top of the cliffs into the water after it. In the meantime another dog, which witnessed the occurrence, ran down to the beach by a circuitous path and, snatching the stick from the dog who fetched it out of the water, ran back with it to the man. Was that a right thing to do? The Coroner: I'll give it up.

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