

AMERICA is rejoicing, and rightly, in the victory which has crowned her arms, and she will have the sympathy of many. But there is another side to the picture. Brilliant success is not a matter for entire congratulation, when we consider its cost. America, amid the excitement of victory, must be sobered by the thought of the 1000 brave soldiers killed and wounded,* while in the homes which have been bereaved, the personal sorrow of the loss of a father, husband, or brother under such terrible circumstances must even overshadow the national rejoicing.

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AND Spain—poor Spain—overwhelmed with disaster, and with losses more heavy in killed and wounded than even those of America, what is her view now of the war upon which she entered with so much heroism? In the trenches round about Santiago at one time lay 3,000 of her sons, killed and wounded; the corpses in unbroken lines, sometimes two and three deep. A high price surely to pay for the vindication of a fancied honour. And the question must inevitably force itself home: Is all this sacrifice of life a necessity? At the end of the nineteenth century is there no way in which two nations professedly Christian, and boasting of their civilization, can settle their differences except by this awful slaughter. Verily, if not we must make considerable progress before we can aspire to even a moderately high place in the scale of creation. The generality of mankind is unimaginative. It sees what is directly under its nose—sometimes. But for the rest. It is as though it did not exist. Witness the horrors in Armenia which went on while we unconcerned eat and drank, danced and frivelled. If we had been on the spot, should we have gone on our way so lightheartedly? Should we to-day, with 4,000 killed and wounded round about Santiago? Surely if we are not quite callous, we should sicken at the sight, and never rest until something less awful than war became the recognized method of settling national differences. Our acquaintance with warfare in this country extends only to brilliant reviews, or military processions, with all their glitter and glamour. We do not grasp that the reverse side of the picture is too awful to contemplate. The sooner, however, that we bring our imagination to our assistance the better for the sake of humanity.

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WE are glad to observe that General Shafter is demanding more doctors and nurses. The value of their services, both in saving life, and in bringing comfort to the wounded, cannot be over-estimated. We do not doubt that American doctors and nurses alike will prove themselves worthy of, and equal to, the terrible work imposed upon them.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE Queen, patron of University Hospital, has forwarded a donation of £100 in aid of its funds.

The Queen has forwarded to the Committee of the Royal Ear Hospital, Soho, of which her Majesty has been patron since 1841, a donation of twenty-five guineas towards the fund now being raised for the new building.

In response to a petition from the Humanitarian League, the Queen has been graciously pleased to receive through the Home Office copies of pamphlets setting forth the League's views in regard to the sport pursued by the Royal Buckhounds.

It is difficult to estimate what would be the condition of London without the work performed by the Metropolitan Asylums Board, and the Annual Report of this body is therefore of exceeding interest. The Board now spends over half-a-million pounds annually in its work, but notwithstanding this enormous expenditure it is in a solvent condition, and its assets considerably exceed its liabilities. By the opening of the Grove Hospital, and additional diphtheria pavillions now being erected at the Western Hospital, another 624 beds for the accommodation of fever and infectious cases are placed at the disposal of the Board. The immunity of the metropolis from small-pox is a matter for congratulation, only 70 cases of this disease having been treated in the Board's Hospitals during the year.

The Local Government Board has now approved of plans for a proposed infirmary for 750 imbeciles at Tooting, which, when completed will provide further accommodation for infirm and bedridden patients. Children suffering from ophthalmia, and contagious diseases of the eye, and from ring worm of the scalp are provided for at Brentwood and Swanley, and Homes have been acquired at Herne Bay and Margate for children requiring seaside air, while Homes are to be opened in various parts of London for the accommodation of children of defective intellect, in order that they may be able to attend schools provided for the mentally deficient.

At the recent annual dinner of the Poplar Hospital for Accidents at the Holborn Restaurant, subscriptions, amounting to over £2,200 were announced. Mr. E. Cayford who presided, appealed for £1,200 to build and furnish the sisters' rooms, and £2000 to build and equip the laundry, as well as for illustrated papers and magazines. Mr. A. F. Hills, president of the Hospital, said that at the time of the launch of the *Albion*, the Poplar Hospital showed its usefulness. Within a few minutes time of notice being received, 45 beds were ready for those who required them. Mr. Sydney Holland said that he was in the hospital when notice was given that there would be an inrush, and although ultimately few of the cases were brought there, he saw the immediate response to the call, and how well the

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