

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



Messrs. Rothschild and Sons have sent a donation of 100 guineas in answer to the special appeal by Viscount Peel on behalf of the Hospital for Sick Children.

It is reported that the London Seaside Convalescent Home, will benefit to the amount of £400 by the ball at the Hotel Cecil. The particular class of patients for whose benefit the new "home" is most urgently needed are those suffering from open wounds, which will not heal in London air, and who are refused admission to other convalescent homes on account of the amount of nursing they require. The need of some convalescent home near the sea is most urgent. For this purpose a suitable house has already been found near Whitstable, which it is hoped may soon be opened.

At a conference of delegates from Metropolitan boards of guardians, held recently at the offices of the City Guardians, Mr. F. Redman (St. Saviour's Union) read a paper on "Phthisis Patients under the Poor Law," and moved a resolution in favour of the establishment by Poor Law guardians of special institutions in the country to which all hopeful cases of tuberculous disease should be removed. After a discussion the resolution was modified so as to invite the Local Government Board to institute an exhaustive inquiry into the subject, and in that form it was unanimously carried.

The Royal Eye Hospital, Southwark, seems in a flourishing condition. At the festival banquet, held at the Hotel Metropole, on Friday evening, Mr. W. N. Chinnery said that the claims of the Hospital were unequalled by those of any other institution. It relieved the suffering of the very poor, suffering of a peculiar kind that if not attended to would prevent the sufferers from earning their living. This Hospital was situated in the poorest part of London, and was deserving of the greatest assistance. Over 17,000 patients had been relieved last year, and the institution was making extraordinary progress. The expenses were kept down to the lowest point, and the institution was not in debt. He was glad to say that the fourteen beds that had been closed had been re-opened. The Secretary announced subscriptions amounting to £4,000, including £200 from the Chairman.

The Birmingham and Midland Eye Hospital, has been added to the list of ophthalmic hospitals recognised by the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

Mr. T. F. Chavasse, M.R.C.S., senior surgeon of the Birmingham General Hospital, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal College.

£20,000,000 left to charities! so reports the *Vienna Press*,—it is stated that the estate of the late Baroness Hirsch, has been sworn at nearly £25,000,000, and the gigantic benefactions are to go to Jewish charities.

The appalling famine in Russia, which has been hushed up as much as possible, has been followed by outbreaks of typhus, scurvy, and other diseases. Scurvy has spread with appalling rapidity. No less than 170 villages are known to be affected by it. The *Times* quotes a Russian journal which contains this painful word picture of the condition of things: "Hunger, scurvy, and typhus, no bread in some places, not even substitutes for it; no straw, no cattle, everything superfluous sold, even the last rag of clothing often disposed of; children huddling together to keep themselves warm, while the adults, if not lying delirious with fever, are gradually succumbing to scurvy; all exhausted by insufficient nourishment and unable to work."

The Red Cross Society does its utmost to cope with the distress. It has to erect hospitals and establishments for the artificial nourishing of babies, as the mothers are incapable of providing nourishment themselves.

Eucaine has recently been employed successfully as the anaesthetic during an operation for strangulated hernia. The patient, a septuagenarian, was conscious throughout the operation, and felt no pain.

There has been a terrible epidemic of small pox during the past winter at Cape Town. It is calculated that from 5,000 to 6,000 have had the disease, and that more than 1,000 have died of it. So far it is mostly the natives who have been attacked, but now Europeans are developing it also, but as they are protected by vaccination, it is not anticipated that the results will be so serious.

We reported some weeks ago that there is a likelihood of the jigger finding its way to Bombay, and so conquering the whole of the tropical world. We learn now that the Government is organising measures to prevent the threatened invasion, which is considered practically certain, and which is viewed with considerable alarm. It is proposed to institute a rigid examination at all Indian and African ports.

A correspondent from Murbad states in the *Indian Medical Record*: "I have read that rats, squirrels and monkeys are affected with plague, but I do not know whether cats are also included in the list. Since plague broke out here in February last, large numbers of cats have been found dying or dead in streets and houses. Some had tumour-like swellings about the size of a big lemon on either side of neck, and the last cat I saw about two days ago had a suppurating tumour (bubo?) below the neck. Numbers of these cats, with what appear to be buboes, were observed to drop down dead in streets or lanes. Whether these cats were affected with plague I cannot say; but if they had plague, it would be interesting to know whether they got it by living in an infected place or by eating affected rats."

Some visitors were recently being shown through Kew Lunatic Asylum, Victoria, and, coming opposite the clock in the corridor, one of them, looking quickly at his watch, said "Is that clock right?" "No, you idiot," said a patient standing by, "it wouldn't be in here if it were right."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)