

## The Royal Red Cross.

THE Queen has conferred the decoration of the Royal Red Cross upon Miss E. B. Bourguignon, Mrs. Bellingham, and Mrs. Drosthe, in recognition of their services to the sick and wounded during the fighting in Tientsin in June and July last.

## The American Red Cross Society.

ON the last night of the 19th century, watch-night meetings of the American Red Cross Society were held all over the country, when messages of greeting and good-will were read from rulers of nations and notable persons of every civilized land.

### QUEEN VICTORIA'S MESSAGE.

"I am deeply interested in the great work of humanity your society has undertaken, and send my best wishes for the new century to the American National Red Cross."

We congratulate the American Red Cross Society on its vitality and forcefulness. But where is our own Red Cross Society, and what is it doing to celebrate the advent of the New Century? Echo answers "where" and "what." The American Red Cross Society, be it noted, has a woman President. Is this the secret of its success? All honour to Miss Clara Barton and her fellow workers, who have gained for their Society the respect of the world.

## "A Friend in Need."

WE are glad to observe a letter from "A Soldier" in the *Times*, calling attention to the invaluable aid rendered by the French Hospital in supplementing the work of the over-taxed military hospital at Johannesburg during the war. The hospital was started by subscriptions in Paris in September, 1899, and the staff of nurses—a cosmopolitan one—was drawn from the Convent of the Sacred Heart, the *Dea ex machina* being Mme. de Ferrières, wife of M. le Comte de Ferrières, who is a resident in the town. The writer speaks in warm praise of Madame and her staff, and ends by urging that the Queen should bestow the Victorian Order on this lady.

## Miss Rogers' Legal Expenses Fund.

WE beg to acknowledge 10s. from Miss Rossiter (Thornton Heath), 10s. from "A Guardian," and 5s. from Mrs. Slade (Tunbridge Wells), towards the legal expenses of Miss Margaret Rogers, R.B.N.A., of the East Preston Union.

## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



MR. RODERICK, of Birmingham, bequeathed £1,000 each to the Birmingham General Hospital, the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, and the Birmingham Bluecoat School.

A town's meeting at Portsmouth recently decided to celebrate the commencement of the new century by promoting a fund for the establishment of a sanatorium for consumptives on the southern slope of Portsdown Hill, overlooking Portsmouth. It is proposed to ask the Government, which owns the hill, for a site, and as the War Office contemplates building a large military hospital for the garrison in the vicinity, hopes are entertained that the answer will be favourable.

The *Lancet* this week ends the Century in most optimistic mood, and dilates even on the "bright side of mud." Says our contemporary: "Mud is largely water. Paradoxical as it may sound mud is clean, at least compared with dust. Moreover, the ultimate fate of mud is in the drain-pipe of the street, but dust too often ends in the windpipe of a man, if not in the alveoli even of his lungs. In future, then, let us not revile the passing hansom, nor, as we wipe from our collar the mud of London's winter streets, too fully condemn it; but rather gratefully reflect that a passing inconvenience, a mere temporary disfigurement, is a small price paid for freedom from the evil possibilities of the dust of an apparently brighter day."

No doubt the Boot Black Brigade are at one with the *Lancet*. But how about the outrageous increase in London's rates? The truth is that north of Oxford-street the roads are in a scandalous condition—the reason—municipal jobbery!

An epidemic of what is known as "coal typhus" has broken out at Renlies, a commune of 753 inhabitants, near Beaumont. The epidemic is believed to be due to the consumption of water from a brook which skirts the cemetery of the village of Fourbeechees.

The *Siècle* announces that M. Osiris, a well-known philanthropist, has instituted a prize of 100,000 francs to be awarded by a committee of the Paris Press Syndicate to the author or authors of a work adjudged by the committee to be the most meritorious, whether from the artistic or industrial point of view, or on the ground of general service to humanity.

Newspaper sensations should be taken with a grain of salt, at least when they refer to fashionable fads in treatment. We learn that a great sensation has been caused by the declaration of Professor Loeb and Dr. Lingle, physiologists at the University of Chicago, that common salt is the true elixir of life. They assert that salt not only keeps the heart in action, but may cause it to beat again after pulsation has ceased. The professors claim that certain products of the electrolytic decomposition of a solution of salt are the life-prolonging substances which work on the muscles through the blood.

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