

## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



Lord Wandsworth has given £50, and Mr. Edgar Speyer £100, to the building fund of the North Eastern Hospital for Children, Hackney Road.

A tender of £45,079 has been accepted by the St. George's-in-the-East Guardians for alterations to their workhouse and the erection of a new nurses' home.

The St. Luke's coroner has held three inquests in three days on persons who were burned to death through their flannelette garments becoming ignited.

The new wards and operating theatre of Bristol Eye Hospital have been opened. The extension of the hospital has involved an expenditure of about £6,800. The enlargement consists of the addition of another story and the erection of a new wing at the back of the present premises towards the garden. The new story provides sleeping accommodation for the nurses and servants, some small wards for patients, and an operating theatre, and the new wing contains a sitting-room for the nurses and increased ward space. The kitchen has also been enlarged and refitted, and the whole hospital is supplied with electric lighting.

Dr. D. S. Davies, the medical officer of health for Bristol is concerned at the lack of accommodation for infectious cases in that city. Compared with the provision made by other towns it would appear that Dr. Davies has reason on his side, for whereas Sheffield with its population of 365,000 has 376 beds for infectious cases, and Cardiff, 166 for 185,000 people Bristol with a population of 324,000 has only provision for 153 infectious cases, and if there should be an outbreak of plague in the city, which Dr. Davies thinks possible, now that it has gained a footing at Cape Town, it would be necessary to turn the scarlet fever patients adrift in order to provide accommodation for plague patients.

Surely these facts have only to be pointed out to the citizens of Bristol to rouse them to the necessity for prompt action. There is sound sense in the theory maintained by the medical officer of health: "Disease is so subtle you never know when it is going to get the better of you, and the most useful phase of the hospitals is to have them up to immediate requirements. The best thing is to have your beds and keep them empty."

Lord Mountgarret's munificent gift of £250 for the building fund and £1,000 for the endowment fund for a Nurses' Home at Ripon as a memorial of the golden wedding of the Marquis and Marchioness of Ripon, has given an impetus to the movement which will carry it forward to complete success. The supporters of the Nursing Institution are highly gratified at the direction the commemoration has taken, as it is the crowning act in a succession of arduous endeavours to establish a scheme of nursing in the city on a broad and popular basis.

A pretty incident occurred at Toulon, when M. Loubet, the President of the French Republic, recently visited the public gardens outside the hospital. Three little baby-girls, hand in hand, says the *Express* correspondent, came forward, one in a dainty red frock, another in white, and the third in blue, their curls tied with ribbons matching, and together spoke a pretty address in lisping but distinct baby voices, welcoming M. Loubet and wishing perpetual prosperity to the Republic. The President, too moved by the incident to speak, kissed all three warmly.

M. Bergson recently gave an interesting lecture at the *Hôtel des Sociétés*, in Paris, on "Dreams and the stuff they are made of." The theory he advanced to an interested audience was that "to dream is the natural state of the mind which drifts into complete indifference to its surroundings." The phenomena of dreams are, he believes, due to the circulation of blood in the retina, and the pressure of the eyelids. When awake, anyone who closes the eyes for a few moments may notice the bright lights and spots which appear to float before them. The same process goes on during sleep, and the spots assume shapes to which we give a meaning. Touch and hearing have an influence on our dreams, but sight is the first factor.

The Committee for the building of a new Seamen's Hospital at Constantinople is now only waiting for an answer from the Board of Trade to commence operations. The last proposal which finds general favour is that the present Consular Buildings shall be pulled down in part, together with the old Hospital, and a new one constructed on the double site.

Antique tear bottles found in old tombs, are objects of interest in many museums, and were used we know by the ancients, and buried with the beloved dead. But it is a little surprising to learn from a physician who has recently returned from Persia that the natives still believe that human tears are a remedy for certain chronic diseases. At every funeral the bottling of mourners' tears is one of the chief features of the ceremony. Each of the mourners is presented with a sponge with which to mop his face and eyes, and after the burial these sponges are presented to the priest, who squeezes the tears into bottles, which he keeps.

The *British Medical Journal* thinks that the British medical service might obtain some useful ideas from Germany. In that country the Army medical service takes high rank and enjoys very high consideration, and no expense is spared to keep it at the highest level. The Army surgeons work in civil hospitals, and also occupy positions in the State laboratories. Scientific laboratories are also established in connection with each army corps to encourage scientific work and intercommunication. There is an official Army medical journal for scientific papers and discussions, and the military hospitals are models of all that a hospital should be, or that knowledge and money can make it. The Kaiser Wilhelm Akademie in Berlin is a military medical school. The students go through much special work during their training in hygiene, bacteriology, and kindred subjects. They pursue their studies as cadets under military discipline and training, and when their education is complete enter the Army and make admirable officers.

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