

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

Next year the British Medical Association will meet at Manchester.



The East London Hospital for Children and Dispensary for Women, Shadwell, has received a donation of £600 from Mr. A. Aitchison for the endowment of a cot at the seaside branch of the institution at Bognor to be known as the Anna Theodosia Aitchison Cot, in memory of his wife.

At a meeting of the Distribution Committee of the Hospital Sunday Fund, held at the Mansion House, the Lord Mayor presiding, the sums of £766 13s. 4d. for last year, and £708 6s. 8d. for the present year, were awarded to the National Hospital for the Paralyzed and Epileptic, Queen Square, and ordered to be paid over forthwith. The money had previously been withheld in consequence of disputes between the board of management and the medical staff, which are now at an end.

The expedition sent out by the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine to West Africa to study malaria and the means of dealing with it seems to be very hard at work. In a letter sent home by the leader of the expedition, Major Ronald Ross, F.R.S., from Freetown, Sierra Leone, he writes: "We have twenty-four men, twelve of these supplied by the Governor, constantly engaged in draining away anopheles pools, and some of the most waterlogged and pestiferous streets have already, after only ten days work, been drained. Another gang of seven men with carts is constantly engaged in destroying mosquito larvæ in private houses, and in carrying away tin cans, broken bottles, old buckets, &c., in which they breed. They clear about forty houses daily, and carry away about ten cartloads of old pots every day, of which about one-third formerly bred mosquitoes. I am reserving full resources for clearing the drying streams at the end of the rains."

The Finsen Light Treatment Department was formally opened at the Manchester and Salford Hospital for Skin Diseases by the Lord Mayor of Manchester last week, and a large gathering assembled to inspect the new apparatus and see it in operation.

The Finsen Light Treatment, to which we have referred in this journal on several occasions, had its origin in the discovery by two English observers, Downes and Blunt, of the power of light to kill microbes. The lights actually employed are equivalent to 30,000-40,000 nominal candle power, or ten times as brilliant as the most powerful lamps used in public streets. The rays are collected from this light by four telescope-like collectors, containing lenses of Siberian rock crystal. Just as the bluish water is an impediment to the red rays, so is the red blood in the skin an impediment to the violet and ultra-violet rays which kill the bacilli. In order to reduce the danger of burning, the compressor is made of two pieces of glass set in a metal frame, and between them a constant stream of cold water is kept running. At each sitting a fresh

patch of about the size of sixpence is exposed to the light for 50 minutes, and this is repeated until the whole area has been covered. Mild antiseptic ointment is then put on, and on the following day the spot is found to be red and swollen, and sometimes blistered; a slight crust forms, and in a few days the skin is completely healed.

The great advantages of the method are its almost complete painlessness (the operation itself is quite painless), and the excellent, soft, even scars which result when the disease has been removed; in these most important points it is beyond comparison with any other treatment. Its disadvantages are its slowness, its limitation to the outer skin, and non-applicability to disease in the mucous membranes of the nose and mouth, the daily attendance, and the great expense of the installation and the current expenses of electric current, nurses, attendants for each patient, and electricians.

Manchester and Salford owe still another debt of gratitude to Mr. W. C. Jones, the chairman of the Skin Hospital, for his generous donation of £500 to start the new treatment. There are plenty of wealthy men near by who might follow his example.

A bed, endowed by the relatives and friends of the late Mrs. Helen Mary Wells, at a cost of £1,000, at the Wallingford Cottage Hospital, was recently dedicated by Canon Sir John L. Hoskyns, Bart., in the presence of the relatives and friends of Mrs. Wells. The bed itself is of the Lawson-Tait pattern, of solid brass, and engraved on a brass plate at its head is a suitable inscription.

An extraordinary general meeting of the qualified contributors to Glasgow Royal Infirmary, was held in the Merchants' Hall for the purpose of electing four additional managers in terms of the supplementary charter of May, 1901. Lord Provost Chisholm, who presided, explained that the object of extending the charter was to enable the managers to be increased from ten to fourteen, so that there might be included in the number two ladies and two representatives of the working men, who had subscribed so generously to the funds of the institution. His Lordship then moved the election of Mrs. Mather, 14, Annfield Place, and of Mrs. Napier, 14, Windsor Circus. Mr. J. D. Hedderwick seconded. This having been agreed to, the Lord Provost moved the election of Mr. William Binnie, 25, Stephen Street, and Mr. James Reilly, 126, London Street. Mr. J. D. Hedderwick, who seconded, explained that these two gentlemen had been chosen after due consideration of their claims by the working men themselves. The various bodies of workmen who subscribed to the Royal Infirmary had each been asked to nominate delegates to choose the proper men. Many of them had done so, and the two gentlemen whose election he had seconded had been finally fixed on by the delegates. The motion was adopted.

This is the third great Scottish hospital to admit women to the Board of Management, and we have no doubt that the able manner in which Miss Louisa Stevenson has acquitted herself in this capacity in Edinburgh, has encouraged Glasgow to take this wise and progressive step.

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