

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



It is satisfactory to learn that the outbreak of small-pox in London which last week threatened to assume large proportions has been so successfully dealt with by the Metropolitan Asylums Board authorities that there seems every likelihood that the disease will be stamped out. Between eighty and ninety beds are now occupied by small-pox patients. All the patients are taken to the Board's fever

shelters for observation and isolation, previous to removal to the hospital ships at Long Reach.

Hospital Saturday will be observed on October 12th, when special collections will be made in the workshops and business houses in aid of the medical charities in London. The regular weekly collection in the industrial establishments, which constitutes the main source of the fund, will continue until the end of the year. It is hoped that the ultimate total will not fall short of £25,000.

The seventh annual Chemists' Exhibition, organized by the *British and Colonial Druggist*, was held at Covent Garden Theatre last week. The Exhibition was well arranged, the music provided was excellent, and the whole appearance most pleasing. It is regrettable that the attendance was not so large as might reasonably have been expected. This was due, no doubt, to the time of year that the Exhibition was held, for, on its merits, it should attract a large number of those interested in its special features, but even doctors, nurses, and chemists must occasionally take a holiday, and August with them, as with other sections of the community, is the favourite month.

Cases of "beri-beri" have been brought to London's docks, and have received treatment at the Seamen's Hospital.

But though much has been learned of the course of the malady, students are still in the dark as to its causes. Dr. Louis Sambon, of the London School of Tropical Diseases, will proceed this winter to Christmas Island to make a determined effort to discover the origin of the disease.

It has broken out in the Islands of the Western Pacific, and it is feared that the outbreak may assume serious proportions in Christmas Island next spring.

It is the desire of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association to secure the appointment of a Minister of Health.

The West Norfolk and Lynn Hospital at King's Lynn recently held a harvest festival, when an open-air service was held in front of the hospital, followed by a sale of flowers, fruit, and vegetables, contributed by past and present patients, and many cottagers on the Sandringham Estate.

The King forwarded a gift of a large hamper of produce, which his Majesty had specially directed to be sent from the royal gardens.

Mr. Andrew Barlow, of Shirley, Southampton, whose liberality for many years past to the charitable institutions in the town and neighbourhood is well known, has lately given a sum of £13,650 to be distributed as follows: £4,500 to the Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital, £3,250 to the Southampton Branch of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Nurses' Institute, £1,700 to the Southampton Dispensary, £1,500 to the Hants Female Orphan Asylum, £1,500 to the Southampton Free Eye Hospital, and £1,200 to the "Barlow" Homes at Shirley.

Thanks to the precautions taken under the Grassi system against the bite of the mosquito in the district of Rome—one of the most infected spots in Europe—the mortality from malarial fever has been reduced from 1,120, the number of fatal cases in July, 1899, to sixty-two in the same month this year. This is indeed a victory for science.

A Local Service of Surgeons for India to be Raised in India.

The following letter from the Indian Medical Association, dated 50, Park Street, Calcutta, August 1st, 1901, has been addressed to the Right Hon'ble, The Secretary of State for India:

SIR,—The Council of the Indian Medical Association most respectfully solicit the honour of placing the subject of the formation of a Provincial Medical Service of Surgeons for India, before you.

1. There is at the present time a difficulty in London in obtaining the right class of medical men for the I.M.S. and for the R.A.M.C., and yet there is a report that the I.M.S. is to be increased in strength. The Council are of opinion that this crisis in London is the best opportunity for the India Office and the War Office to utilise the material obtainable in the Medical Colleges of India to supply the medical needs of this country. They further venture to suggest that, in the interests of Indian finance, the good and reliable material for medical work available in India should be utilised for India's needs, so as to save the Government of India and the Indian tax-payer 33 per cent. of the outlay on the present medical expenditure of this country.

2. They respectfully suggest, in view of the present difficulties at home—

- (a) that the R.A.M.C. be withdrawn from India;
- (b) that the I.M.S. be divided into an Imperial and Provincial Service—the former to be recruited entirely in London, as at present, the latter from Indian Medical Colleges, consisting of both British and Indian graduates of Indian Universities;
- (c) that the officers of the Provincial Medical Service be styled "Surgeons," and graded into five classes;
- (d) that these classes represent the grades of Lieutenant, Captain, Major, Lieutenant-Colonel and Colonel of the I.M.S. respectively;
- (e) that they receive 33 per cent. less than the salary of each of the I.M.S. grades represented;

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