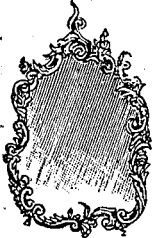


## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



University College Hospital is greatly in need of funds. We hope some generous person will help the Committee to pay the Christmas bills—they are alarmingly large in comparison to the banking account.

A donation of £1,000 has been given towards the £6,000 required to provide a chaplain for the Cancer Hospital, Fulham Road.

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children have secured the old Dental Hospital in Leicester-square for their new central offices. Including freehold, the entire cost amounts to £28,000. To open the new headquarters free of cost, as it was hoped to do early in the New Year, Mr. W. W. Astor's recent gift of £10,000 to the society will have to be supplemented by subscriptions amounting to £18,000.

Dr. Moses Thomas, the old and faithful superintendent of the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, will not leave that institution until the managers have elected his successor, and he has prepared his final report. By the month of May he will have been thirty-seven years in the service of the Infirmary. All his professional life has been spent in hospital work—first in Greenock Infirmary and then for about six years in Barnhill Hospital.

By the generous gift of a new ophthalmic theatre from Mr. William Ogilvy Dalgeish, the Royal Infirmary at Dundee has been placed second to none in its equipment for the successful treatment of ophthalmic cases.

The new eye operating theatre is placed near the eye wards, so that that part of the Infirmary is now wholly devoted to the treatment of diseases of the organ of vision. The theatre proper is a large, well-lighted room, with white opalite walls, relieved by a dado of brown, bounded at top and bottom by strips of blue, the cornice being also of the latter colour, while the floor is of white tiles. Adjoining the theatre is an ante-room for anaesthetising patients and for sterilising instruments and dressings; and there is accommodation for examination purposes and for ophthalmoscopic work.

Some excitement has been caused at Mentone by the hotel keepers having advertised that they will not admit phthisical patients, as it is considered that their action will injure Mentone as a health resort. We are not surprised at hotel keepers being somewhat anxious on the question, as the medical faculty has laid down the principle that consumption is contagious. But as their *clientèle* is principally composed of invalids, it is difficult to know who will fill the hotels, if only healthy persons are admitted. Each hotel should have an annexe, and all cases of phthisis should be most comfortably catered for, apart from the general public.

## Items of Interest.

It is announced that Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson, F.R.S., is about to proceed to South Africa to study leprosy. He will go to Robben Island, and thence to Natal and Basutoland. His object is especially to obtain facts as to the use of dried and badly-salted fish. Leprosy is a comparatively new disease in Cape Colony, and quite new in Natal and Basutoland. Hence the exceptional opportunities for ascertaining the cause of leprosy which these countries afford.

A letter has been received by the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine from Havana, stating that, as a result of the anti-mosquito campaign in Cuba, carried on by permission of the United States, Havana has for the first time since 1762 been free from yellow fever, and that malaria has decreased more than half. It is estimated that mosquitoes have decreased 90 per cent. more than last year.

Three years ago the collection of mosquitoes in the Natural History Museum was small and of no account. A special effort had to be made to increase it, and the assistance was sought of the Foreign Office, the Colonial Office, and the India Office in the attempt to procure properly preserved specimens from all quarters of the globe. The result has been the reception at the Museum of a very large series of more or less extensive collections of mosquitoes from almost every corner of the world.

Dr. Balfour Stewart left England by the African steamship *Fantee* to carry on the work of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine on the Gold Coast. He will remain out for a year or longer, and will, if possible, visit the mining districts of the coast.

Dr. Kellog, writing in *Good Health*, urges the value of water as a rational remedy for disease. "Every case," he says, "in which an organ has ceased operations is a case of faint. Here is a stomach that has fainted away at the advent of an enormous dinner; the poor stomach has a fit of indigestion. What is one to do? Swallow pepsin, the digestive principle from a pig's stomach? That will not cure the stomach. But a hot application over the stomach, followed by a cold application and massage, affords immediate relief. The stomach is energised by the cold application, and sets to work. So it is with every bodily organ. If one knows where to apply the water, hot or cold, as the case may be, he can wake up any organ of the body."

A surgeon at the front, in a letter from Harrismith to the *Homoeopathic World*, says: "I am sure that the flies are the great cause of the spread of enteric fever out here. Seeing that nature has designed their legs to convey pollen from one plant to another, it is only natural to imagine that they can convey disease germs in a similar manner. It is a notable fact, which I have heard lately, that, although the enteric was terrible in Ladysmith during the siege, there was hardly any last year. They had adopted a plan of distributing meat and other attractive things, which had previously been soaked in a certain sheep dip, about the town. In consequence, there were very few flies and hardly any enteric."

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