

## Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR



**HELP FOR TOTTENHAM HOSPITAL.**—In connection with the recent bazaar at Tottenham opened by Princess Louise (Duchess of Argyll), in aid of the local hospital, the accounts show that the net proceeds amounted to £815. Princess Louise has forwarded to the institution a cheque for £25, given her by Sir Theodore Martin for presentation to any charity.

**WINDFALL FOR SOUTHAMPTON HOSPITAL.**—At a recent meeting of the Committee of the Royal Hants and Southampton Hospital, the Chairman, Colonel F. Willan, stated that it was his pleasing duty to inform them that he had received a letter from Mr. Andrew Barlow, intimating his intention of giving a further gift to the hospital funds of £3,500, and it was unanimously agreed that the Committee, on behalf of the Governors, tender their best thanks to him for his generous gift. The donation of Mr. Barlow's will make a grand total of £10,000 that he has given to this institution within the last few years. It may not be generally known what an immense amount of work the hospital undertakes. The number of in-patients admitted during the quarter ended June 30th was 493, while the number of out-patients was 1,635, or an increase over 1903 of sixty-one and 504 respectively. Miss Mollett, who has been Matron for twelve years, has had the satisfaction of seeing wonderful improvements in every department of the hospital's management, not the least of which was the building of the beautiful new Nurses' Home. Queen Victoria took a deep interest in the hospital, and Princess Henry of Battenberg has always been identified with its work.

**OUT-PATIENT OPERATIONS.**—"There is no time at this hospital for examination unless some special reason is shown." Such was the statement of Dr. C. W. McLeay, of the Victoria Hospital for Children, Chelsea, at the inquest this week on the body of Annie Osment, aged six months, who had died under an anæsthetic prior to a simple operation. Mr. H. P. Dunn, who made the *post-mortem* examination, said an examination would have shown that the child was not in a condition to receive the anæsthetic. The house surgeon said it was not usual to make an examination unless the person looked queer; time was of importance. The jury, to their verdict of death by misadventure, added a rider that they considered that all patients should be examined before operations, and that steps should be taken to relieve the pressure on the hospital staff.

**BOND STREET OCCULTISTS.**—The immunity from prosecution of the West End palmists, crystal-gazers, and other fortune-telling charlatans, says *Truth*, grows stranger and stranger. It has been suggested that persons of some position in Society are interested in certain of the businesses, and though I do not myself for a moment believe that this—even if the statement is true—accounts for the inactivity of the authorities, the authorities will only have themselves to blame if such an idea gets abroad.

## Our Foreign Letter.

## AMBULATORIA IN ROME AND NAPLES



In Rome and Naples I visited some of the dispensaries, as we call them, or "ambulatoria," as the Italian name is, for children. A number of these are en-

tirely supported by private societies and individuals. In Rome, Signora Celli goes three times a week to spend the day working in one of these dispensaries, where also one or two other volunteers go regularly to assist in making dressings, &c. A couple of nurses are engaged on the staff, and Signora Celli, being a graduate nurse, has general oversight. Several physicians are appointed, who attend every day, and a general clinic is held, all kinds of cases being treated. There is a bath, where the children can be bathed. Milk is also prepared under the physicians' directions and given to the mothers in certain cases, and they are instructed in the principles of feeding the children. (However, I have not seen any such complete plant for distributing milk for children, pasteurised or prepared according to special formulas, as those in Baltimore and New York under the Wilson Sanitarium management in the former, and the Good Samaritan Dispensary and Strauss milk stations in the latter, but it would not be fair to compare with them these "ambulatoria," which are on a much smaller scale.)

There are also several beds for children who need to be kept for several days, and a nurse to take charge of them. The whole thing is established in an old convent, which answers very well indeed for the purpose, and is situated in one of the poorest parts of Rome. It has a large service. There are five of these private ambulatoria for children in Rome, and all the money is raised by private endeavour. The American nurses in Rome told me that they often make bandages and dressings for this purpose when they are home from cases.

The one in Naples is quite unique, and could be so easily imitated that every settlement and district nursing centre at home ought to establish one. It does not take a general service, but specialises on rachitic children. The cases are selected by a physician, and treated as long as he orders, then dismissed by him when proper to do so. He is not there every day, but comes at fixed periods.

The treatment consists of a daily bath, rubbing, cod-liver oil, and a meal of hot bread and milk, and it is wonderful to see the improvement in these cases.

One of Miss Baxter's graduate nurses is in charge of this work, with a couple of assistants. They have a suite of rooms fitted up for the work, with bathroom, kitchen, and a large waiting-room very cannily arranged, so that the mothers can help without being in the way. The mothers undress their own children, and hand them in turn through a large window opening into the bathroom. After the bath and rub are given the children are handed back through the

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