

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

Charing Cross Hospital has received £900 from the executors of the late Mr. J. L. Toole to endow a bed in his memory.



The need for nurses to be well acquainted with the methods of fire drill has, within the last week, received striking exemplification. On Saturday night a fire broke out in the Children's Convalescent Department at the Enfield and Edmonton Joint Isolation Hospital, which is a wood-lined pavilion. There were twenty small patients in the pavilion at the time, their ages varying from three months to eight years. The two night nurses in charge, who discovered the fire almost at once, raised the alarm and immediately began the work of removing the patients. The Matron, Miss Eardley, was quickly on the scene and immediately got the hydrant to work, the engineer and stoker afterwards assisting, and help was also afforded from the Northern Fever Hospital. The pavilion was practically destroyed, but thanks to the prompt action of the Matron and nurses none of the patients were injured. The cause of the fire is supposed to be the over heating of a stove.

A fire also occurred at the Cancer Hospital, Fulham Road, on Saturday, from the over heating of a furnace, but was quickly extinguished by the hospital staff, and on Tuesday a somewhat serious one occurred at the St. Marylebone Infirmary, in the Steward's storeroom.

The National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic, Queen Square, Bloomsbury, has received £225 from the executors of the late Mr. J. L. Toole from the sum left at their discretion for distribution. This hospital had a deficit of over £4,000 in 1906.

Of anti-toxines there seems no end. The details of a discovery of a new anti-toxine treatment for dysentery were given by Dr. Doen, an army surgeon, at a recent meeting of the Imperial Medical Society, Vienna. Dr. Doen, with Professor Kraus, has been engaged for several years in sero-therapeutic research, and has at length succeeded in infecting rabbits with the particular form of dysentery bacillus which was discovered by Shiga and Kruse. From this source Dr. Doen and Professor Kraus obtained their new serum. It is stated that their experimental treatment of soldiers of the garrison of Cracow in 1904 proved highly successful, as have also their later experiments in Bosnia and Rumania.

A serious outbreak of cerebro-spinal-meningitis is at present causing much anxiety to the medical profession in Belfast. Originally five cases were sent to the hospital out of one family, of whom two

have died. Two other cases followed, and it is feared that the death of two children of the same family is due to the disease. In the case of the two children death occurred with alarming suddenness.

The beneficence of British rule in Egypt has been long apparent to the world. The latest development of it is the setting aside of 300,000 dols. for a travelling hospital in the desert. One of the plagues of Egypt is a most prevalent eye trouble, induced by the burning winds and flying sand, and fostered by ignorance and neglect. To meet this a travelling ophthalmologic hospital has been put in commission, Dr. McCallan, of London, being chief organiser. The hospital consists of twelve tents, the largest of which is used as operating tent. The caravan itinerates eleven months in the year, stopping only in July, when the intense heat compels a suspension of work. There have been 18,943 cases dealt with during the past year, and the institution promises to relieve a great deal of unnecessary suffering that the Khedive's government was fully cognisant of, but never cared to help.

Midwifery Notes.

A special meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held on Thursday last at the offices of the Board, Caxton House, Westminster, S.W., to receive and consider a communication from the Privy Council concerning amendments to the rules. The business was conducted in camera and no communication was subsequently made to the Press.

The Royal Maternity Charity, 31, Finsbury Square, E.C., which has a staff of 28 midwives, has, during the past year, attended 2,651 cases. The number of infants born was 2,700, as there were twins in 49 of the cases. The males preponderated over the females, there being 1,379 boys and 1,321 girls. Eighty of the infants were still-born, the maternal deaths were 8 and the infants' 43.

A Midwives' Defence League.

The organisation of a Midwives' Defence League is evidently a very live question, as will be gathered from our correspondence columns this week. The Manchester midwives have already formed an Association for mutual protection, and now we learn, from Mrs. Lee, certified midwife, that the members of the Royal Maternity Charity have also initiated a Midwives' Defence Association. The organisation of a Union of Metropolitan midwives will, in our opinion, require due consideration. To facilitate this would it not be wise for Mrs. Lee, and those midwives already associated with her, to call an informal Conference, and invite their colleagues to discuss the scope and objects of the proposed Association?

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