

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



On the occasion of the opening of the winter session of the St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical School, on October 1st, the old students' dinner will be held in the Great Hall, under the presidency of Mr. Harrison Cripps. The new buildings, comprising the casualty, out-patient, and special departments, will be opened for inspection before and after the banquet.

Sir T. Lauder Brunton will deliver the inaugural address of the Winter Session of the London School of Tropical Medicine on Monday, October 21st, when the chair will be taken by Mr. R. L. Antrobus, Assistant Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Sir Richard Douglas Powell, K.C.V.O., president of the Royal College of Physicians, is to give the inaugural address of the winter session of University College Hospital Medical School on October 2nd, when he will also unveil the memorials to the late Dr. G. V. Poore, Physician to University College Hospital, and the late Mr. Christopher Heath, surgeon to the same institution.

The London County Council has organised for the session 1907-8 courses of instruction for teachers. These courses are open without fee to teachers in London schools, whether elementary, secondary, or technical, and are intended to offer to teachers in the various types of schools opportunities for developing their knowledge of different subjects and of coming into contact with those who have made a special study of the subjects in question. The course on Hygiene seems likely to be a most useful one.

A carnival will be held at Islington on Thursday, September 19th, to help the Great Northern Central Hospital to clear off part of its debt. The general hon. secretary is Mr. A. Young, 92-4, Seven Sisters Road, Holloway.

As a means of adding to the building fund of the Bolingbroke Hospital, Wandsworth Common, arrangements are now being made for a three days' bazaar—to be fitted as an Old English fair—to be held at the Battersea Town Hall on October 23rd, 24th, and 25th, by the courtesy of the Mayor and Council of Battersea.

An organisation has just been formed in Geneva called the "Universal Society of the White Cross of Geneva," having for its object the co-ordination of the work being carried on throughout the world in the battle against tuberculosis, cancer, epidemic and infectious diseases, and social evils such as alcoholism.

Our Foreign Letter.

FROM BORDEAUX.



You may imagine how interested and delighted I am to see these two admirable training schools in Bordeaux!

Of course, it is well understood that they are by all odds the best things in France, but it is not descriptive enough to say that—they are also excellent in comparison with any training schools, faithful followers of the principles of Miss Nightingale. The Maison de Santé is not large, but it gives its pupils every branch of service, and the absence of medical students throws every detail of work into the nurses' hands. The Hôpital du Tondu, with its hundred and twenty beds, is also admirably designed for the training of nurses, and I think I have never seen better worked-out examples of how to utilise every inch of ground as material for practical training than in these two schools. Every department and every procedure is made a field for teaching and experience for the pupils. Then, what a consolation and joy it is to see thoroughly well-kept patients. It reminds me of my trip through Italy, when, among many magnificent and picturesque hospitals, with bewitching Sisters, charitable ladies working as volunteers in the hospitals, scientific doctors and all that, I never found a well-kept patient until I reached Miss Turton's and Miss Baxter's work, and that of their nurses. So here, in France, for the first time, I see good nursing, from the standpoint of the patient. It seems to me one finds in France a prevalent idea of giving instruction to nurses, but a sad lack of any conception of giving good nursing care to patients. In other words, the patients are seldom made the central object of importance. It is in always sounding this note, the primary importance of nursing the patient, that Dr. Hamilton is so unique in France, and I believe it is precisely because good nursing from the standpoint of the patient is so little understood generally, here, that Dr. Hamilton's work is more warmly appreciated, and more highly extolled by foreigners than by the French people themselves.

Indeed, it is a rare thing anywhere to find a medical woman with such large and exact knowledge of what constitutes nursing, and such generous recognition of the domain of the nurse.

It seems to me there is no more stirring narrative than the story of her Thesis. What a delightful chapter it will make for our third volume! This keenly intellectual young medical woman, her medical course complete, heartsick at what she saw in the hospitals, vainly seeking in medical science relief for all the varied miseries of the patients, turning to study the field of nursing to

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)