

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The National Society of Day Nurses, started last May, has issued its first quarterly organ, the *Crèche*, to further its mission of raising the standard of all day nurseries throughout the United Kingdom. In aid of the funds of the society a dramatic performance will be given, by the kindness of Lord Howard de Walden, at Seaford House, Belgrave Square, on the 16th inst.

It was stated by Dr. Basil W. Nutman in an inquest at Southwark recently that the death of a child named William Thomas Currell was due to meningitis, set up by a cold in the head. The Coroner remarked: "Then if we have colds we are liable to meningitis." Witness said that was so, and it was induced in this case by the pneumonia germ settling in the nose instead of in the lungs. A verdict in accordance with the medical evidence was returned.

A return as to pauperism in England and Wales for the half-year ending July 1st, 1907, has just been issued in the form of a Blue-book. The total number of persons relieved on July 1st was 868,276, of whom 136,800 appear in connection with unions in London, and 731,476 under the head of unions outside of London. Insane numbered 111,074. Of the aggregate of 868,276 relieved, a total of 11,408 were casual paupers. In comparison with the increase in population, which is estimated for England and Wales in the middle of the year at 34,945,600, pauperism on July 1st shows a slight fall. The paupers relieved on July 1st, 1907, amounted to one in every 40 persons, or 24.8 per thousand of the population as compared with 25.1 on July 1st, 1906. The proportion in London, on the other hand, with a population of 4,758,218, was somewhat higher than in the previous year, being one in 35 persons, or 28.8 per thousand.

The Livingstone College, Leyton, E., is doing good and useful work in providing elementary medical instruction for missionaries. A full medical training for every missionary is manifestly impossible; at the same time a knowledge of First Aid in Medicine, Surgery, and Hygiene is so essential in the isolated positions in which missionaries are often placed, that the training given at Livingstone College is invaluable. The complete Session is for nine months, and enables the students to give instruction in Hygiene, which may be of the utmost importance to the people of the country in which they reside. Malaria, Plague, and Sleeping Sickness are all of them to a considerable extent preventable diseases, and Livingstone College Students may do much to combat their ravages.

Professional Review.

A HISTORY OF NURSING.*

There are epochs in the development of every profession which hereafter become landmarks in its history. The Nineteenth Century saw for the first time the foundation of Nursing on a scientific basis, and the dawn of the Twentieth has brought to us the first History of Nursing written by members of our own profession; a book which will be read with absorbing interest from cover to cover, and wherein we must reverence the work of the master hand, which has enshrined in it the story of Nursing and Nurses, painstakingly gathered from the records of all ages. Moreover this classic, which we owe to the genius of two of the most brilliant members of our profession, Miss M. Adelaide Nutting, R.N., and Miss L. L. Dock, R.N., is the property of us all, its simple dedication being "To all members of the Nursing Profession."

The two volumes now published deal with "the evolution of nursing systems from the earliest times to the foundation of the first English and American training schools for nurses," and it is the purpose of the authors, "if this first effort is well received, to attempt later an account of the development of modern nursing, including as it does important and dramatic movements in almost every country."

Of the past history of our profession little has hitherto been known. Are not many of us, indeed, apt to think that it has no history before the Crimean War? This error is once and for all dispelled, and we not only know that hospitals existed centuries before the Christian Era, but we can henceforth point to a roll of illustrious nurses far back into the centuries whose heroism and devotion thrill us with pride. Thus we can claim kinship with such women as Olympia, Macrina, Phœbe, Marcella, Paula—who was marvellous *debonair*—Fabiola, Hrotswitha—whom a French writer describes as "the Christian Sappho, and a glory to the whole of Europe"—the Empress Placcilla, Cesaria, Radegunde, Hildegarde, St. Catherine of Siena, Mme. de Chantal (the friend of St. Francis de Sales), Mlle. Jeanne Mance (who, in the Seventeenth Century, endured incredible hardships while working with the Jesuit Fathers in a hospital connected with their mission to the Iroquois and other savage Indian tribes in primitive Canada), Mme. de Goussault and Mlle. le Gras (co-workers with St. Vincent de Paul), Amalia Sieveking (friend of Pastor Fliedner, "one of the most vigorous and sensible characters of her time"), and many other great women whose names hitherto have been barely known to us, but whom we must henceforth honour for a devotion to the sick which the best modern nurses cannot excel. Happy are we if, with all our increased opportunities, we are able to attain to it. It is a goodly heritage into which we enter, and our thanks are due to those members of our profes-

* G. P. Putnam's, 24, Bedford Street, Strand, W.C. Price £1.

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