

efficient, as well as an inexpensive, disinfectant.

Of interest also to nurses, especially district nurses, of whom many were present, are the Kingzett Drain Testers. They consist of containers attached to a string, which are sealed and packed with the necessary chemicals. After passing the trap the container opens; the water will then react upon the chemical substance thus ejected from it, and the strong-smelling smoke which is given off will enable the inspector to ascertain any defective parts of the drain. In about a quarter of an hour the test will be completed, and then the string and its attachments may be withdrawn.

Many more interesting appliances are to be seen, but the object of this article is to suggest to nurses that on the next opportunity they should go and see for themselves. At the conclusion of the visit of inspection last week a most bounteous tea was hospitably provided, to which most of the nurses present appeared ready to do full justice.

#### QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S COMMITTEE Q.V.J.I.

A report of the work of Queen Alexandra's Committee for 1908, which consists of 200 ladies, and under the presidency of Adeline Duchess of Bedford raises at least £2,000 annually for Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, will shortly be submitted to her Majesty. Any information respecting its work will be furnished by Mr. Harold Boulton, Hon. Treasurer, and Mr. Reginald R. Garratt, Hon. Secretary, 120, Victoria Street, S.W.

#### THE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE FUND.

A letter has been addressed to several Boards of Guardians in the Metropolis by Mr. Henry Bonham Carter, secretary of the Florence Nightingale Fund, stating that the committee has resolved to discontinue its contribution to the nurses of the infirmary by way of gratuities, subject, of course, to the existing liabilities of the committee. In taking this step the committee state that it has been actuated by the consideration that the objects for which the original arrangements with the Guardians were entered into, namely, the establishing with its aid a high standard of nursing in the infirmary in accordance with Miss Nightingale's views and of aiding other similar institutions to adopt the same course, have been amply fulfilled.

#### AWARDS AT THE TUBERCULOSIS EXHIBITION.

Among the awards at the Tuberculosis Exhibition at Washington, U.S.A., were prizes of £200 to the Brompton Hospital for Consumption for the best hospital exhibit for the treatment of advanced pulmonary tuberculosis, £100 to the Brompton Sanatorium at Frimley, for the best exhibit of the treatment of curable cases of consumption, and £100 to the Women's Health Association of Ireland for the best evidence of effective work in the prevention of tuberculosis.

Probably no hospital concerned in the treatment of consumption in this country is better known, or its benefits more sought after, than the Brompton Hospital for Consumption. We congratulate the authorities on the well-merited honour which it has received.

## Reflections.

#### FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales last week visited the Royal Waterloo Hospital for Children and Women in Waterloo Road, S.E., and opened the Duchess of Albany Ward, which, as a mural tablet affixed therein records, is "named in grateful recognition of the noble work done for this hospital by H.R.H. Helen Duchess of Albany." The Princess was accompanied by the Duchess of Albany, who is President of the Ladies' Association; Prince Alexander of Teck, the Chairman of the Special Appeal Committee; and Princess Alexander of Teck, President of the Children's Guild. Her Royal Highness was received by the Lord Mayor, President of the Hospital, and at the conclusion of the opening ceremony was presented by the Duchess of Albany, on behalf of the Ladies' Association, with a purse containing nearly £400 for the funds of the Hospital. The Duchess requested Her Royal Highness to retain the purse as a memento of the occasion, saying, "It is somewhat of an interesting Stuart relic, being one of Queen Anne's Maundy Thursday remembrance bags."

The wards in the basement of Middlesex Hospital for the reception of septic cases have been recently lined with white tiles, and several structural improvements have been carried out. They now open directly, by means of French windows, on to a flagged area from which an outside staircase, giving access to the grounds, has recently been constructed. The two wards, which communicate, each contain three beds, for men and women respectively.

The supplement to the thirty-sixth annual report of the Local Government Board, just issued, containing the Report of the Medical Officer, to the President of the Board, is a comprehensive and interesting document, showing the wide sphere of influence covered by the Board.

At a meeting of the Voluntary Committee for the provision of meals for necessitous children in London, held at the Mansion House last week, the Lord Mayor presiding, it was unanimously resolved "That the Lord Mayor be requested to issue forthwith an appeal for funds." For some years voluntary associations have raised about £8,000 per year for the provision of meals, and last year the Chairman of the London County Council's Fund reached £12,000. Of this £20,000 about £18,500 was spent in the winter of 1907-8. This year it is thought that fully £40,000 will be required to prevent the levying of a rate.

The Blue Book on the health of Belfast, published recently, explains the high death-rate from enteric by the eating of tainted cockles and mussels gathered in Belfast Lough. It is proposed to prohibit the gathering of the shellfish. The incidence of consumption in women between twenty-five and forty-five suggests that their work in the mills affects them.

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