

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

The result of the poll for the election of three Fellows of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons was announced last week by the President, Sir Henry Morris. The Fellows receiving the highest number of votes were Sir Watson Cheyne 420, Mr. W. Harrison Cripps 385, and Mr. Richard Clement Lucas 356. Sir Watson Cheyne and Mr. Lucas were therefore re-elected members, and Mr. Harrison Cripps elected a member of the Council. There was a record poll, 971 Fellows recording their votes.

The Committee of Management of the Brompton Hospital for Consumption report that the ward specially set apart for the reception of children under eight years of age has been equipped, and the cots are now all occupied. The term of six months for which it had been decided to make a trial of the scheme of voluntary notification and the examination of "contact" cases having expired, it has been unanimously decided to continue voluntary notification. The section of the scheme dealing with the examination of "contact" cases is now under consideration by a sub-committee. Arrangements have been made to place at the disposal of the military hospitals at Aldershot beds at the Sanatorium at Frimley for the reception of ex-soldiers discharged with pulmonary tuberculosis in an early stage at the special rate of 10s. per week.

The foundation stones of the Sanatorium for Delicate Children, which the National Children's Home and Orphanage (Bonner Road, N.E.) is building at Harpenden, were recently laid. The ceremony was performed by Miss Marshall, daughter of Sir Horace B. Marshall, by Miss Ainsworth, niece of Sir Thomas Barlow, and on behalf of Miss Perks, daughter of Sir Herbert Perks, M.P., who had been unexpectedly called away to the Continent. Alderman Sir Charles Wakefield presided, and the dedicatory prayers were said by the Rev. J. E. Watts-Ditchfield, Vicar of St. James the Less, Bethnal Green. The Principal of the Home (Rev. Dr. Gregory) stated that £9,000 had been promised, but that at least £2,000 was still required to complete the scheme, which included an open-air school, shelters, playgrounds, etc. The Sanatorium had been so constructed that it would be easy to add to its accommodation. The first provision will be for about forty patients. It is not intended to receive children in an advanced stage of tuberculous disease, but to deal with patients in the earlier stages, of whose recovery there would be reasonable hope. Sir Thomas Barlow wrote that the Sanatorium would be "a real godsend to many children who are just over the border-line, and will be ultimately brought back through its beneficent work into the region of sound health." Dr. Eichholz, of the Board of Education, also sent his "most earnest good wishes."

The Gloucester General Infirmary will for the future, by permission of the King, be known as the

Gloucester Royal Infirmary, "in recognition of the admirable work done by those responsible for its management, and the devoted and successful efforts of its staff in the prevention and alleviation of human suffering." The Infirmary was founded in 1755, in the reign of George II., who presented 9,200 feet of rough oak timber from the Forest of Dean for use in the fabric of the new building.

The Special Committee of Glasgow Corporation to which the Town Council remitted for consideration and report the petition, signed by about 18,000 citizens, and forwarded by the Woodside Municipal Association, praying for an independent inquiry into the administration of Ruchill Hospital from the date of the Local Government Board inquiry, recommend that the petition be forwarded to the Local Government Board for their consideration.

Messrs. Cadbury Brothers, Ltd.

THIRTY YEARS OF PROGRESS.

A most interesting report of their thirty years of progress, since the moving of their works from Birmingham to Bournville, was presented by Messrs. Cadbury Bros., Ltd., on the occasion of the Bournville Works Summer Party. The numbers employed have risen from 230 in 1879 to 4,923 in 1909. Of the many points of interest dealt with those affecting the health conditions are of chief interest to the readers of this journal.

A resident doctor was engaged in 1902, and a dentist in 1905, a second dentist having been engaged this year.

At the present time the sick rate is barely 1½ per cent., and if ever this rises above 2 per cent. it is considered heavy. The mortality rate for last year was 2 per thousand, and it is gratifying to note that the deaths from phthisis were only 4 per thousand, which is less than one-sixth of the death rate from this cause in some of the best German factories.

It is an interesting fact that since the appointment of a works dentist, and since the care of the teeth has been so strongly emphasised (tooth brushes, etc., being on sale), there has been a marked falling off in cases of anæmia and neuralgia, while gastric troubles are rarer. Since 1906 girl employees who have been ill have been able to take a rest at the firm's Convalescent Home at Bromyard, on the bracing uplands of Herefordshire.

The last record showed that of accidents occurring at the works, only six were what could be termed serious, against eight and seven respectively in the two preceding years. Records show that the accidents occur as follows:—First hour of work, 5 per cent.; second hour, 17 per cent.; till noon, 44 per cent.; after mid-day rest and up till 5.30, 29 per cent.; overtime, very few. The not uncommon view that the worker always contributes to the accident is disproved by this experience, which shows that accidents occur with the increasing fatigue of the worker, and that short periods of work and adequate intervals for rest are essential in the interests both of employers and workers.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)