

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



MRS. MARY ANNA CORE has been appointed Matron of the Manchester and Salford Nursing Institution. Mrs. CORE was trained at the Leicester Infirmary, where she remained for five years, acting as Night Superintendent for the last two. She was then appointed one of the Matrons of the East London District Nursing Association, where she worked from 1887 to 1890. During the last few months, she has taken charge of the wards set apart for enteric fever in the Leicester Infirmary. Mrs. CORE is a Registered Nurse, and a Member of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and is also known as the inventor of the "Core Bed-Rest."

MISS EMILY M. DE BARTOLOMÉ has been appointed Sister of a Woman's Surgical Ward in the Leicester Infirmary. Miss BARTOLOMÉ completed the term of three years' training last February, and gained a Certificate.

MISS ALICE DANNATT, lecturer on Domestic Hygiene for the Lindsey County Council, completed before Christmas a successful Course of Five Lectures in, and near, the Isle of Axholme. The attendances at the several lectures numbered 2,777. The growing audiences and the kind interest expressed were most gratifying. This was the first Course of the third season.

SIR RICHARD QUAIN, Bart., President of the General Medical Council, has accepted an invitation to inaugurate the new Medical School of the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire, at Cardiff, on February the 4th.

At a Sessional Meeting held on Wednesday, the 10th inst., Sir THOMAS CRAWFORD, K.C.B., in the chair, an address was given by Dr. THORNE THORNE, Medical Officer of the Local Government Board, on "Diphtheria, its Causes and Prevention." He pointed out its very unequal distribution around England and Wales, but showed that it prevailed largely in areas which were cold and damp. It was remarkable that although Enteric Fever had rapidly declined with the increase of sanitary reforms during the last twenty years, Diphtheria had largely increased. During the same period the death rate from it was nearly three times as much as in 1872, and it was most prevalent during the school age of children from 3 to 10 years. He considered that all causes, such as damp, cold, sewer gas, &c.,

which produced sore throat, were predisposing conditions of Diphtheria by rendering the individual susceptible to the attacks of the specific infection of the disease, and that they were in this way connected with the disease, although not the direct cause; that the aggregation of children in schools was one of the most powerful causes of its spread, as the close proximity of children during school hours rendered them very liable to take each other's breath in which the infection was conveyed.

As a means of prevention, he thought that it was very important that whenever cases of Diphtheria occurred, all children with the slightest sore throat should be excluded from school attendance, and this would probably be more effectual than closing the school entirely. That as milk had been shown to convey the infection of Diphtheria, it should always be boiled before use. Domestic animals, such as the cat, which were likely to be affected by the disease, should be avoided by children during the time Diphtheria was prevalent. Diphtheria is essentially an infectious disease, and all precautions of disinfection of rooms and clothing should be taken after cases had occurred.

Sir Thomas Crawford, Sir Douglas Galton, and Prof. Lane Nutter spoke after the paper, and among those present were Sir Richard Quain, Drs. Max Pother, Parkes, and Sykes, Mr. P. Gordon Smith, and Mr. G. J. Symons.

OUR special Australian correspondent writes:—

"About the middle of November, another new Hospital was added to the already numerous, but, alas! impecunious, charities of Melbourne, and opened by Lady Clarke for the St. Vincent Sisters of Charity, who have one of the best managed Hospitals in Sydney. They purchased the ground and some private houses on it for a temporary Hospital, until they collected funds to build a permanent one. The Sisters act as Head Nurses in the Hospital. It was announced at the opening, by Archbishop Carr, that patients of any denomination or creed would be received, and their ministers allowed free access to them. This is as it should be, and quite right, and no doubt the good Sisters will keep faith on this point. But there is not an opening for another Hospital; the already existing charities are a burden neither people nor State of Victoria can support. At several of the Hospitals, beds have had to be put down, and at one leading Hospital a whole pavilion is standing empty; the managers, after building it, could not, for want of funds, undertake the maintenance of more patients. The only Incurable Hospital, 'The Austin,' is in lamentable straits, and a piteous appeal was made a week or two ago by the Secretary, saying, 'if funds were not forthcoming, some forty more beds must be cut down, and as the patients are friendless and penniless, there is nothing before them but to be herded with the criminals at the Gaol Hospital.' Under these circumstances, we have no need for more new Hospitals till the fortunes of Victoria take a more favourable turn. Australians are not ungenerous to their poor, for they will give when they can, and liberally."

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