

hard and soft food easily. The case is a very interesting one as evidence of the extreme change which may take place in the maxillary joints, and there seems to be no reason for the occurrence of ankylosis in this case except on the supposition that an extension of inflammatory disease from the ear had taken place after the attack of scarlet fever in infancy. The plastic operation, which of course was the best possible treatment under the circumstances, must have been accompanied by considerable difficulty, and it is therefore highly creditable to the operator that so excellent a result was attained.

#### DIPHTHERIA.

THE rapidly increasing number of cases of diphtheria in this country is attracting the most serious attention of the sanitary authorities, and renders it a question of national importance which is the best treatment of the disease. It is now beyond dispute that the results which have been obtained so far by the employment of the diphtheria antitoxin have excelled those achieved by the use of most other remedies. There are, however, unfortunately a number of cases in which the remedy appears to fail, and on the other hand, it is also manifest that in out-lying towns and villages especially, medical practitioners must experience a great deal of difficulty in obtaining this preparation as they require it. The fact, however, of the disease being bacterial in its origin being now clearly proved, it should follow that an essential part of the treatment must consist in the application of some powerful germicide direct to the affected locality. It is, therefore, usual to paint the fauces and surrounding structures freely with a solution of corrosive sublimate, and the Americans have certainly obtained some remarkable results by using a local application of a mixture of kerosine, turpentine oil, and oil of peppermint. We imagine that it is possible that much of the benefit which has, in such cases, been obtained, results from the employment of kerosine alone, and that it would be found, if the experiment were made, that, if pure kerosine were only used, equally beneficial results would be shown; because the active principles of this illuminant seem to be strongly antiseptic.

#### SYMPHYOTOMY.

THIS is the name given to a somewhat novel operation to which we have not previously alluded in these columns, although it has been employed by obstetric practitioners for the last two or three years in increasing numbers. The operation consists in cutting through the cartilage which unites the two halves of the pubic bone, and this permits, therefore, a separation not only of these bones, but, in consequence, a

widening of the whole pelvic cavity. In cases of contracted pelvis in which it would be impossible to deliver the child even after the performance of craniotomy, in consequence of the space between the pelvic bones being so narrow, this operation has had remarkable results. The internal pressure has forced asunder the bones of the pelvis, and the child has passed through and been delivered with safety and comparative ease. After delivery, a roller bandage is tightly applied round the hips so as to bring the separated edges of the cartilage again together, and in most cases excellent union has followed, while in many instances there have not been the slightest bad results. Of course, care is required, both in the performance of the operation and in the after care of the patient, but, as a general rule, with the strict observance of antiseptic precautions the progress of the case may be perfectly normal.

### Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



Miss Florence Worley and Miss Annie Douglas, Registered Nurses, both certificated in the school of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, have been appointed Charge Nurses at the Hospital Convalescent Home, Parkwood, Kent.

Lord Reay, G.C.S.I., Vice-President of University College, London, will preside at a dinner at the Criterion Restaurant on Wednesday, March 13, at which Sir John Erichsen, Bart., F.R.S., Sir J. Russell Reynolds, Bart., F.R.S., and Sir John Williams, Bart., M.D., are to be entertained by their colleagues, friends and pupils.

Lady Kortright, of Roden House, Brentwood, has sent the munificent donation of £7,000 to the treasurer of the Grosvenor Hospital for Women and Children, Vincent Square, Westminster. This is in addition to a sum of £1,000 already contributed by her ladyship. Both sums are in aid of the building fund.

The following lectures will take place at the Sanitary Institute, in Margaret Street, during the coming week:—

Tuesday, 19th.—Physics and Chemistry. (Lecture V.)  
—The Chemistry of Fuel and Combustion.  
Friday, 22nd.—Physics and Chemistry. (Lecture VI.)  
—Sanitary Chemistry.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)