

contemporaries, who assert that medical men know no more about influenza now than when it first appeared, and that their knowledge of its treatment is as deficient as their acquaintance with its cause. As a matter of fact these statements are quite inaccurate, for it is well recognised now, by medical men, that so-called influenza is an epidemic and infectious disease, and that there is every ground for believing that it is caused by bacterial agencies. It is known to run a definite course which is quite understood, and to take different forms, chiefly because all individuals are not precisely alike. In some cases, the fever is greater than in others, and while some will suffer from nerve symptoms, others will be attacked by disturbances of the digestive organs, and others, again, by more or less severe lung disease. The progress of the disease in any individual case merely depends upon the particular complication with which the influenza may be associated. The treatment is equally well understood; the patient should go at once to bed and there remain until the fever is subdued. The disease is above all things of a depressing character, and therefore stimulants and nourishment have to be given in carefully regulated quantities. Influenza is, in fact, essentially a disease in which good nursing is requisite, and upon this factor in the treatment, in a considerable number of cases, will depend the result. Although the death rate is certainly high just at present, there is no doubt that the influence of the present climatic conditions would account for a very considerable increase in the normal death roll, without any assistance whatever from influenza, or any other epidemic disease. It is remarkable what a large number of people whose names appear in the obituary columns of the *Times* each day, are aged eighty and upwards. But the extreme cold, followed by the very changeable temperature since the great frost departed, is quite sufficient to account for the death of old people without looking about for any other cause.

DEFICIENT DEVELOPMENT.

An interesting case has recently been published, showing the effect which pressure upon the vessels and nerves of any part has in preventing its proper development and growth. The patient in question, it is said, had both arms of an equal length until she was eight years of age. An outgrowth of the bone on the left upper arm, which appeared when she was about twelve years old, caused pressure on its axillary vessels and nerves, and when she was sixteen years old the left arm was shorter than the right by about an inch, and correspondingly smaller.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE Duke and Duchess of York have intimated that they will visit Sheffield on May 10, remaining there until May 14. The arrangements include the opening of a new hospital in West Street and the distribution of prizes to the Artillery Volunteers. During their stay in Sheffield their Royal Highnesses will be the guests of the Duke of Norfolk.

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The Duchess of York, attended by Lady Eva Greville, visited the Chelsea Hospital for Women this week, and distributed flowers to all the patients.

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Princess Mary Adelaide and the Duke of Teck will attend the concert given by the Wandering Minstrels at the Star and Garter, Richmond, in aid of the building fund of the Princess May Ward for Children at the Royal Hospital, Richmond, on March 20th.

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The Duchess of Teck will be present at a meeting to be held at Stafford House on Tuesday, April 2nd, in aid of the work of the Church Army. The Archbishop of Canterbury will preside.

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The Earl of Rosebery will preside at the banquet in aid of the Evelina Hospital, at the Whitehall Rooms, Hôtel Métropole, on March 21st.

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The Countess of Warwick will open a bazaar and series of entertainments in aid of the furnishing fund of the Paddington Green Children's Hospital, in the New Hospital Building, on March 28th, at 2.30 p.m.

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The Earl of Dudley will preside at a festival dinner in May next in aid of the fund for the opening of the, at present vacant, wards at the City Orthopædic Hospital, Hatton Garden.

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The Clothworkers' Company have voted £500 towards the funds of St. Thomas's Hospital, and the Leathersellers' Company has, in addition to the 50 guineas recently contributed to the general fund, sent a donation of 200 guineas to the special fund for opening the wards at present closed.

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