

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE Russian National Health Society intends next year to commemorate the centenary of Jenner's first experiments by offering four prizes for the best works on vaccination by collecting and publishing a history of vaccination in Russia, and a short history of the same in Western Europe. Further, they propose to publish a Russian translation of Jenner's works, and are organising an Exhibition of interesting objects in connection with vaccination.

An imperial ukase has been issued with reference to the foundation of a hospital for Russian workmen: The Empress has taken the institution under her immediate patronage.

In consequence of the death of Mr. Charles Mitchell, LL.D., Newcastle, the munificent contributor to the Aberdeen University extension scheme, the University authorities have decided, out of respect to Dr. Mitchell, to postpone the proposed celebrations in connection with the inauguration of the new buildings in October.

The distribution of prizes and the presentation of the Hanbury Gold Medal by the President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, will take place on October 2nd, at 3 p.m., and Professor Roberts will deliver the inaugural Sessional Address.

Dr. Thorne Thorne's Report for 1893-4 to the Local Government Board contains some very important matter, and gives a very interesting account of the Worthing typhoid fever epidemic which has been said, from its fatality, to resemble some of the epidemics of the Middle Ages rather than anything to which we are accustomed in the present day.

Mr. David Livingstone, Chairman of the Health Committee of the Durham City Council, stated recently at a meeting held to discuss further accommodation for the sick, that there were so few Hospitals in the county as to leave a population of 400,000 people totally unprovided for in time of sickness.

In some districts, when it becomes necessary from lack of funds that the needs of Hospitals should be prominently brought to the notice of citizens, a house-to-house canvass is arranged, and generally proves very successful. People know so little, even about Hospitals which are at their very gates, and it is as often as not mere carelessness which keeps back their subscriptions. Now in a house-to-house canvass individual facts can be brought before householders, and the claims of the sick may be eloquently and successfully pleaded. Sometimes people say "We hate to be bothered by people coming begging to our houses;" but they do not say the same when canvassers come in search of Parliamentary votes. If house-to-house begging is objectionable to the householder, he can easily obviate this by being able to point out to the canvasser that he is already an annual subscriber to the Hospital, and that therefore there is no further claim on him.

The splendid heroism displayed by Surgeon Captain Whitchurch in conveying from the field the wounded Captain Baird, during the Chitral Campaign, is thus described in "A Narrative of Events in Chitral," by H. C. Thomson. It is a grand example of First Aid to the Injured.

Whitchurch had placed Baird on a stretcher:—

"As they crossed the polo ground three of the men who were carrying the stretcher were killed by successive shots. As each man fell his place was supplied by another, but when a fourth was hit it was clear that the stretcher could no longer be carried, so Whitchurch partly carried and partly dragged Baird along the ground. By this time they were completely cut off, the main body of the enemy lying between them and the fort, while all around them were little groups of men firing into them, and trying to make up their minds to charge home. . . . Of his little party nearly half were killed. Baird was wounded three times, but strange to say Whitchurch was untouched, except for a slight contusion in the foot from a spent bullet, although the last time Baird was hit just outside the walls of the fort, his head lay upon Whitchurch's shoulder. Had it not been for the darkness, which concealed them from those of the enemy who were not immediately around them, not one of them could have reached the fort alive."

The brave Captain Baird died the following day, declaring himself satisfied to die the death of a soldier.

An American paper publishes a ghoulish and sensational story of the doings of medical students in the anatomical laboratory of the University of Michigan, in the shape of a full account of a baseball game that took place in the building three or four weeks ago. Human bones were used for first, second and third bases, while one of the players stood on a table and swung the arm of a woman for a bat. The sponges that are used to wipe the cadavers with were the balls used. A regular score was kept, and an umpire decided the points. This shocking performance lasted twenty minutes, when the game wound up in a row with the umpire, and he was driven out amid a shower of sponges.

The artificial preparation of human milk is of such importance to children that the success which is apparently attending Dr. Backhaus in concocting it, is gratifying. By his method cow's milk is fermented by means of rennet, and the serum obtained carefully sterilised and enriched as required for different individuals by the addition of cream. The sterilising of milk before distribution is insisted on by Dr. Backhaus. But we should imagine that in Berlin, at least, ordinary cleanliness is required quite as much, if his calculations are even approximately correct that the milk supplied to the Prussian capital is so foul as to compel the Berliners to consume in this way 300 cwt. of cow-dung *per diem*. This amounts to more than the conventional "peck of dirt in a lifetime."

Lourdes water may or may not be miraculous, but the Lille *octroi* officials seem to be decidedly of the opinion that it is mineral. A number of pilgrims to Lourdes returned to Lille the other day, most of them being well provided with bottles and flasks containing a supply of water taken from the *piscines*. Before admitting these packages into the town, the officers at the receipt of customs irreverently demanded that the duties customarily levied on mineral waters should be forthcoming. Most of the pilgrims thought fit to comply with the demand, although not without indignant protest. Only one refused, who declared his intention of taking the question before the law-courts. One does not easily see why the presence of the mineral should necessarily exclude the miraculous. On the other hand, the Customs officials may have a similar difficulty in perceiving why the presence of the miraculous—when introduced through the medium of mineral water—should absolve its *octroi*-ridden possessor from paying the usual 10 or 20 per cent.

We must congratulate Messrs. Burroughs & Wellcome & Co. on the fact that their admirable Tablets of Pure Compressed Tea have gained a special First Class Certificate

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