

must be kept clean, and the discharge of matter be assisted, but also that the patients require to be given as much nourishment as possible. The depression of the illness, and the drain upon the system from the abscess discharge, can only be counteracted by ample and excellent nourishment, and if necessary, also some form of stimulation. These cases therefore often require more attention to the diet than to almost any other particular, and success or failure frequently depends upon whether or not the Nurse can persuade the child to take the requisite nourishment.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



SIR JOHN GORST in an article in the *Nineteenth Century* makes one or two alarming propositions. He says with regard to dealing with the sick he "would provide free medical advice and treatment to all those who thought fit to apply." If Sir John Gorst were to spend a few mornings in the out-patient departments of our Hospitals and were to follow some of the individuals who "apply" to their well-to-do comfortable homes, he would somewhat alter his views and would feel that

an enormous hardship is already inflicted on medical men by the "splendid paupers" who by no means disdain to get "free, gratis and for nothing" medical and surgical advice from men who are not nearly so well off as themselves, and medicines from poor Hospitals encumbered with debts and so embarrassed for want of funds as almost to carry on their work from "hand to mouth."

Given fair weather "camping out" is not only a most delightful but a very healthful form of holiday. In Liverpool the plan has been largely adopted for the poor city children, and from May to September, summer camps for city children dot the sand dunes of Lancashire and Cheshire, and contingents of street waifs are sent from Liverpool for a fortnight's holiday in the midst of bracing air and kindly surroundings. These camps, until recently, were the special privilege of boys; but in May last a summer camp for girls, endowed in perpetuity by Mrs. Samuelson, of Liverpool, was opened at Wallasey, a quiet village bordering on the shore and some miles distant from the city. There twenty-two little girls at a time are accommodated and taken care of by a committee of voluntary women-workers.

Liverpool has for a long time borne an unenviable reputation of being one of the slummiest and most miserable of cities and for its contrasts of wealth and poverty. But it is rousing up to a sense of its shortcomings and has started in real earnest to make the conditions of its workers more human and elevated, and the Police-Aided Clothing Association, recently founded by Lord Mayor Watts, is likely to remove from Liverpool the stigma of having on its streets a larger number of ill-clothed and bare-footed children than most British cities have. This is another of the associations of the kind founded as the result of the initiative of the Chief Constable of Edinburgh, whose progressive views as to the duty of the State towards its poorer citizens have been productive of so much reform in the city in which he works.

The adulteration of food is by no means a modern vice or a latter-day trick of the trade. There are countless records of wholesale adulteration in the Middle Ages, and unfortunately there were then no County Councils or Government Inspectors to seize unsuitable food, to detect adulterations or impound false weights. When we Londoners are called upon to drink our milk with a large admixture of the product of the pump it is most comforting to hear that Queen Elizabeth drank milk highly watered, and in her case the water was probably extremely impure and full of countless horrors of microbes! The spices and jams in the days of Marie Stuart were very much mixed with cheap and nasty materials. And one of the first steps taken by the chemists on the introduction of quinine was to discover how best the drug might be adulterated. So that there is "nothing new under the sun," only that to-day there are some restrictions, and adulteration is more of a fine art than it used to be.

The water famine in the East-end of London has begun to assume a serious aspect in the outbreak of attacks of diarrhoea and in a marked increase in the death-rate in some districts, notably in Limehouse, where the rate has gone up to upwards of 36 per 1,000. During the severe weather of the past winter water in some places was indeed a scarce luxury, for which the frost and the London water companies were responsible. But it is very unusual at this time of year to see, as might be seen on many days of last week, buckets of water being sold in Spitalfields at prices ranging from 1d. to 3d. each. A water famine at this season of the year when diarrhoeal troubles are apt to occur under normal circumstances, may lead to very serious outbreaks, and it is hoped that some remedy will be promptly found before it is too late.

According to the last return of the Metropolitan Asylums Board there were on Saturday last 3,066 patients in their Fever Hospitals, 2,359 of these being scarlet fever, 558 diphtheria and 118 enteric fever. There has also been an increase in the number of small-pox cases admitted to the Long Reach and the South Wharf shelters.

During the Congress of the British Medical Association in London a most interesting collection of medical, surgical and pharmaceutical antiquities from Rome, Pompeii, Naples, Capua and other Italian cities was shown at the Victoria Rooms, Savoy Hotel, by Messrs. Oppenheimer. Also the complete fittings of an old alchemist's shop—perchance the very one described by Shakespeare, whose owner's "poverty and not his will consented" to sell the poison wherewith the young Romeo destroyed himself on Juliet's tomb!

The scarcity of doctors in Parliament is often commented upon. There are very few in the new assembly, but among the medical men who have been returned to the new Parliament are the following: Dr. R. Ambrose (West Mayo), Dr. G. B. Clark (Caithness-shire), Dr. Robert Farquharson (West Aberdeenshire), Sir B. Walter Foster (Ilkeston, Derbyshire), and Dr. M. A. Macdonnell (Leix, Queen's County). Considering how much medical knowledge is needed in order to deal effectively with so many social questions it is a great loss to the community that medical men should be so few and far between in our House of Commons.

The Cheyne Hospital for Sick and Incurable Children has hitherto enjoyed the distinction of never having been in debt. But an appeal on its behalf has just been issued in order to gain a further sum of £200 a year to enable the hospital to pay its way, and prevent the anxiety to the Committee of a deficiency. Sick and incurable children are received between the ages of 3 and 10, and are kept in the hospital, when necessary, till the age of 16. The hospital is practically unendowed, and has for its President H.R.H. the Princess of Wales.

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