

importance of all cases of so-called hysteria being placed under medical care. The term itself is often employed loosely and inaccurately, and underlying the symptoms which it is supposed to cover, there very often exists some grave functional or even organic disorder.

TEMPERANCE AND CRIME.

It is a well-known fact that a very large number of crimes are traceable directly to the effects of intoxicants; and the improved and increasing temperance of the nation at large has shown, as was reasonably expected would be the case, a corresponding diminution in the number of grave offences against the law. It is, therefore, with much reason, hoped that the steady growth of temperance on the part of the labouring classes in this country will result in a continual diminution in the statistics of crime. In America, a novel departure has recently been made, for in several States the sentences upon offenders have been reduced on condition that a teetotal pledge should be taken and kept by the prisoner. It is stated that the good results of this procedure are already becoming evident, in the lessened prevalence of crime on the part of such prisoners.

A NEW MILK TREATMENT.

A NEW theory, which is not without fascination, has recently been propounded. A German physician, arguing from the well-known fact that milk has an extraordinary power of absorbing diseased germs, probably because the germs thereby find the nourishment which they require for their support and development—and that in consequence milk is the great carrier of infectious diseases—has propounded the theory that milk should also be valuable in removing infectious germs from the human system. He therefore placed persons suffering from smallpox and other infectious fevers in sheets saturated with milk. After an hour, these were removed and the body sponged with warm water. He states that, by this method, patients suffering from infectious complaints, even when apparently in an almost hopeless condition, rapidly recovered. The beneficial effects, in many fevers, of the administration of a warm "pack," are well-known, especially from the power of reducing febrile temperature possessed by this treatment. But, whether the germs fly to the surface of the body in order to secure their favourite drink—as the investigator in question would have us believe—or whether the result in the cases reported were merely accidental coincidences—one thing is certain—that in the great majority of instances the treatment could do no harm, even if it did not effect much good.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE QUEEN, as Sovereign Head of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England, has approved the appointment of Inspector-General Norbury, Royal Naval Hospital, Plymouth, as a Knight of the Order. Her Majesty has also been pleased to confer the dignity of a Baronetcy upon Surgeon-General Sir Joseph Fayrer, K.C.S.I. Her Majesty has also been pleased to confer the honour of Knighthood upon Robert Martin Craven, Esq., F.R.C.S., and Willoughby Wade, Esq., M.D.

The Lord Chamberlain has, by command of Her Majesty the Queen, sent a most acceptable gift of cast linen to the British Home for Incurables.

At the Hospital for Epilepsy and Paralysis, Regent's Park, the inmates had, we learn, a very bright and happy Christmas, and, as only three beds were vacant, the staff had a busy time. A present of a fine doll and other toys sent by the Editor of *Truth* enlivened the proceedings for the younger patients (of whom an unusually large number was present); while all the inmates enjoyed games and songs, which, together with more substantial fare, formed part of the Christmas entertainment, the dessert being provided by the paying patients and their friends. A pleasing incident of the occasion was the presentation to the Matron, Miss Miriam Ridley, of a beautiful dessert service from the members of the Nursing staff.

A Ball in aid of the East London Children's Hospital will take place on January 14th at 9 p.m., at the Portman Rooms.

A correspondent writes: "The Home of Rest at Brighton was quite *en fête* on Christmas Day, and a most merry party assembled there to enjoy the festive season. The dear Matron made us all feel quite at home, and it was delightful to see how those Nurses who have visited the Home appreciate her universal goodness to us. Numerous little gifts were sent by them, and greatly appreciated by her—handkerchiefs, flowers, lace fichus, silver brooch, sachets, books, photograph-frames, and 'goodies,' to which we know she is partial, and numberless cards expressive of good wishes and affection. We had a lovely dinner—turkey, goose, a magnificent plum-pudding, mince-pies, dessert, crackers, and wine. It is pleasant to report that much was sent by the Nurses—one giving a turkey and brace of pheasants, another the plum-pudding, one the port wine, one the preserved fruit, another the crackers, and last, but not least, the flowers. The table was most suitably and beautifully decorated with white wool, flowers, and holly. The healths of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and Mrs. Lionel Lucas were proposed by Mrs. McIntyre, and most cordially drunk. In the evening we had a thoroughly enjoyable time, with music, singing, dancing, finishing up with a hearty chorus of 'Auld Lang Syne.'"

Christmas this year, at the Lincoln County Hospital, was started by a Concert on December 18th, given by the Hospital Saturday Committee. On Christmas Day the patients partook of a sumptuous dinner of pheasants, roast beef, and plum-pudding. A tea was held in the Johnson Female Ward, followed by music and games. Every inmate received some useful present and Christmas letter by their bedsides. The convalescent male patients enjoyed some tobacco in the outpatient room, and were entertained by the Assistant House-Surgeon. The Matron and Nursing Staff, twenty-six in number, dined at 6.30 in the evening. On December 27th, two performances of Punch and Judy were given in the Children's Ward, also a tea-party in the Dixon Ward. On

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