

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



A GRAND BAZAAR in aid of the North Eastern Hospital for Children, Hackney Road, Shoreditch, is to be held at the Queen's Hall, Langham Place, W., and will be opened on June 23rd, by H.R.H. the Duchess of Connaught, who will receive from children purses containing £5 5s. and upwards. Collecting books for purse collections and all further information may be obtained from the Secretary, T. Glenton-Kerr, 27, Clements Lane, E.C.

At this Bazaar, Dr. Arabella Kenealy has kindly undertaken the palmistry tent, being an expert in this popular art. She and Miss Annesley Kenealy have recently contributed nearly £100 to the funds of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, this large sum arising from their palmistry tents at several bazaars held for the benefit of this admirable Society.

The annual report of Dr. Visser, chief officer of Public Health and Sanitation at Johannesburg, has just been issued. He states that the percentage of deaths due to typhoid is very high, and it is to be attributed to bad water and adulterated milk. The deaths from pneumonia during 1895 amounted to 1,000. Dr. Visser declares that the only means of obviating such high mortality is by adequately watering the streets, the prevalence of dust being the chief cause of the propagation of zymotic disease.

A meeting of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association was held at Carpenters' Hall, Throgmorton Avenue, E.C., on Saturday evening, when Mr. T. G. Dee, Medalist in Hygiene, delivered a lecture on "The Impurities of Water; their Origin and Detection."

At the Annual Meeting in connection with the Edinburgh Royal Maternity and Simpson Memorial Home, the directors announced that after all expenses had been defrayed, they had a reversion of £435 13s. 10d. The work of the Hospital had shown a decided increase during the year.

The various Medical Staff Corps of the Volunteers have had some excellent practice during the Easter manoeuvres in stretcher and other drills appertaining to their special work; and in field Hospital and bearer company duties.

At Gloucester the number of fresh cases of small-pox notified continues each week to show an increase. During the seven days ending Thursday last 195 fresh cases were notified, 16 patients discharged from the Hospitals cured, while there were altogether the large number of 37 deaths (12 in the Hospital and the remainder outside). For the preceding week the figures were 172, 10, and 28 respectively, while for the week ending March 19th the figures were 117, 1, and 19. Altogether during the past four weeks ending on Thursday last, 623 cases have occurred, 104 deaths being notified, and but 28 patients discharged cured.

The Sanitary Committee, acting on the advice of the Local Government Board, have arranged for several of the local medical men to make house-to-house visits in order that persons may be vaccinated or re-vaccinated with calf lymph, free of charge, at their own homes. Over 40 fresh cases were notified last Friday.

At the Royal Free Hospital a systematised enquiry is made into the condition of persons applying in the out-patient department for medical relief. Investigations are made under the superintendence of an experienced lady almoner, so that subscribers to this Hospital may feel assured that their money is expended on those really needing it. The comfort of the patients is greatly augmented by the Ladies' Visiting Committee, which sends necessitous patients to convalescent homes, supplies diet to poor out-patients, warm clothing, and other comforts are also judiciously bestowed as occasion arises. The number of in-patients last year reached 1,802, which number will probably be greatly exceeded this year, as every bed is now available for occupation.

The New York Red Cross was incorporated February 13th. The principal office of the Society is to be in New York City, and it is formed to establish a corps of physicians, surgeons, and nurses, for attending the sick or wounded of all nations, creeds, and sexes, in time of peace or war, to supply the association of the American Red Cross with nurses, medical and surgical aid and assistance.

The monks at Glastonbury used charms and amulets in their treatment of disease, but these were described in the Leech Book as "holy amulets against every heathen charm," and amongst other remedies for typhus fever the patient had to drink "a decoction of herbs over which Masses had been sung, together with the names of the four gospels, and a charm and a prayer."

Even in comparatively recent times "A bit of old sail-cloth from a shipwrecked vessel tied to the right arm and worn for seven weeks" was recommended as a protection against epilepsy; the heart of a lark fastened to the left thigh as a remedy for colic; and the patient should carry about some hairs from a goat's chin as a relief from quartan ague.

The screeching and unnecessary parrot is an object of grave suspicion in Paris just now. According to the doctors, parrots are a fertile source of zymotic infection, and the death recently of a M. de Kock was ascribed by his physician, Dr. Gilbert, to his too familiar association with a feathered pet. So depressed became the state of the parrot market in consequence of this report that some 400 or 500 of the dealers formed a syndicate, called a meeting for protest, and invited Dr. Gilbert to attend. That gentleman, however, found he had an important engagement elsewhere, and so the fanciers had it all their own way. They proved in eloquent speeches that, as in the case of Goldsmith's mad dog, if there is any exchange of contagious particles between the human and the avicular species, it is the parrot and not the man that dies.

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