

means convinced in this matter of vaccination of the wisdom of the new principle favoured by the Royal Commissioners. In effect they say, "Let us have Free Trade in Small-pox. Place a small duty on its importation, and if the customer refuses to pay the duty, then admit the disease duty free." The principle appears to us to be wrong in theory, and we therefore imagine it will prove worse in practice; and if it is admitted, where is the line to be drawn? If one law—framed, as all laws are, or should be, for the benefit of the whole community—is to be broken at the will of individuals; if penalties for its non-observance are to be omitted because they irritate the law-breaker; where is the comma, or even the full stop, to be placed? Is capital punishment for murder to be abolished because it would irritate a murderer to be hung by the neck? We hold somewhat strongly that the individual who, by his gross neglect of available measures of precaution, communicates small-pox to another person is morally as responsible for that fellow-creature's death, if the disease has a fatal issue, as if he had wilfully administered to him a dose of prussic acid. The report of the Royal Commissioners will undoubtedly be of the greatest value for the conclusive facts it has brought together in support of the efficacy of vaccination, and for the interesting historical survey which it gives of the whole subject. In brief, it recommends that compulsory vaccination should be continued, but that, say for a period of five years, the infliction of repeated penalties for non-vaccination should be omitted, so as to test the results that are gained thereby; that calf lymph should be employed whenever desired, instead of vaccine from arm to arm; and that private practitioners should be paid for vaccinating their own patients the same fees as are paid to public vaccinators. This last recommendation appears to us to be valuable and practical, and one which probably will do more to bring about vaccination and re-vaccination amongst the middle and upper classes than any amount of penal legislation. Altogether the report is a most useful State document, and we would fain hope that it may be the means ultimately of settling the troublesome vaccination controversy.

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Recalls the Delicious Tea of Thirty Years Ago.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE principle of the eight hours working day is gaining ground so strongly in Australia that the Victorian Government has informed the Committee of the Melbourne Hospital that the eight-hours rule must be enforced among the Nurses there; and the Hospital Authorities are doing their utmost to resist the obligation, on the grounds that it will involve an increase of the Nursing Staff by 46 Probationers and 14 Sisters, at an expenditure in salaries alone of £1,360 per annum, and of about £700 per annum for their sustenance and general expenses; and moreover that the funds at their disposal will not allow this expenditure, together with the cost of erecting new buildings to accommodate the increased staff.

The Bazaar in connection with the Children's Hospital, Temple Street, Dublin, has started a painting competition. A pretty little drawing-book is sold at the price of a shilling, which book, in addition to some illustrations dealing with a pathetic incident in connection with the Hospital, contains a large variety of outline drawings of children's Hospital scenes, for the most part tender or playful, which the competing artists are requested to colour. There are prizes for adults and for children of different ages. A gold watch rewards the best of the first fifty books received. The idea is happy and deserves success.

It has been decided by the Guardians of the Drogheda Workhouse that a trained Nurse shall be appointed to superintend the Nursing which is placed in the charge of the Nuns there.

We learn, with regret, from the *British Medical Journal*, that "Henri Dunant, the founder of the Red Cross movement and the originator of the International Geneva Convention, is announced to be lying in poverty and sickness in his old age in a small foreign Hospital. Something has been done, we believe, out of the modest funds by some of the Red Cross Societies to relieve his most urgent wants, and we are glad to see that Herr Rummelin, the Burgo-master of Stuttgart, has formed a committee for the purpose of making some further provision for the philanthropist who, after rendering such great services to humanity, has fallen upon evil days in his old age." This is the very irony of fate, and the members of the Red Cross all over the world should remove the stigma from the society by contributing to the fund being raised by Herr Rummelin.

Dr. Francis R. Cruise, of Dublin, has received the honour of knighthood from the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland.

The Central Council of the Incorporated Medical Practitioners Association have proposed that a Metropolitan Counties Branch should be inaugurated during the autumn.

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