

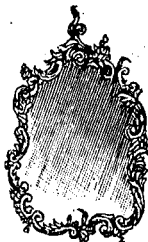
ing; the patient suffers from vomiting and diarrhœa, and the development of wheals on the skin, which itch intolerably. The eating of mussels is popularly supposed to be the most frequent cause of this complaint, but it may undoubtedly follow a meal comprising other fish and even other articles of diet. Hitherto, oysters have had an excellent reputation, except for the temporary reproach cast upon them last year in connection with typhoid fever, and from which they have apparently recovered. But a well authenticated case has recently been published in an Austrian medical journal in which death occurred within twenty-four hours after eating oysters, and in which the symptoms were all clearly those of acute poisoning, the vomiting and giddiness being followed by paralysis of various groups of muscles, especially those engaged in swallowing and respiration. The treatment, of course, must be immediate in these cases if it is to be effectual, and consists of attempts to remove as speedily as possible the poisonous matter. Emetics of mustard and water, if stronger remedies are not obtainable, and, when the stomach is emptied, the administration of castor oil in largish doses are the first steps which are usually taken. Then, the maintenance of the patient's strength, and thus the prevention of muscular paralysis, is attempted by the administration of stimulants and concentrated food and of various powerful nerve tonics.

#### PRUNES AND PROPRIETY.

FEW quotations from the immortal novelist are better known than that referring to the young ladies who were taught by their preceptress to say "Papa, potatoes, poultry, prunes, and prism," so as to shape their little lips into the form held by her to be most dignified. A Chicago physician has improved to some extent upon the performance, for he recommends that troublesome children should be fed upon prunes. He states that, boys at a reformatory with which he is connected, who become "unusually cantankerous" are restricted for a few days to this simple if not satisfying diet, and that under its influence their evil tempers subside, and they become as meek as sucking doves. If this be so, we may expect to find prune juice take its place in the future as one of the most ordinary ingredients of medicines for old, as well as young, people.

## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



MR. NEWTON H. NIXON, the energetic Secretary of University College Hospital, makes an excellent suggestion, in a letter to the daily press, for raising funds for the London Hospitals. He says:—"It occurred to me, prior to the public announcement of the Volunteer Tournament at the Crystal Palace, that our large army of volunteers might very well follow the example of the regular army by organising an annual tournament on the same lines as the Islington Tournament in aid of our London Hospitals. The results could be handed to the Hospital Sunday Fund for distribution *pro rata*. The Press announcements state that the Crystal Palace Tournament proved a success as a spectacle, and if organised in aid of a Hospital I cannot help feeling that a large sum might be contributed annually to swell the amount for distribution by the Hospital Sunday Fund, especially when it is remembered that the Islington Tournaments, after payment of heavy expenses, realise a large sum for military charities. From my position as a Volunteer officer of many years' standing, and as secretary of one of our large London Hospitals, I venture to express a hope that the Press will open its columns in order to ascertain the opinion of Volunteers, Hospital managers, and others, as to the feasibility or otherwise of my suggestion, and should the proposal be received favourably further steps could be taken to organise the movement on a large scale."

A meeting of the Central Executive Committee of The Life-Saving Society was lately held at St. James's Hall, when the Hon. Secretaries reported that great progress had been made since the last meeting in the number of classes of instruction, and that examinations for the proficiency medallion and certificates had been held at a large number of schools, showing a grand total of 227 candidates, of whom 131 were awarded medallions, 78 certificates, and 18 referred back for further instruction. A large number of schools and organisations, having decided to promote the objects of the Society, were elected to membership. Correspondence with respect to classes and branches was read from Canada, India, New South Wales, New Zealand, Ireland, Scotland, and a great many towns in England. The interest evinced in the Society, and the help afforded in the promotion of its objects, as well as the knowledge of the best method of saving life from drowning, gave great satisfaction, and in order to meet the wishes of many desiring to become acquainted with the methods advocated, it was decided to open several classes of instruction, the details being left in the hands of a Sub-Committee. With regard to the free public display of life-saving, to be given in Finsbury Park, on Saturday, Sept. 5, it was decided to start at half-past five p.m., when, in addition to the above, several important events, including a 200 yards scratch race for a gold medal, will be decided. The Society has been awarded a diploma and gold medal by the

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