

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE trustees of the late Mr. George M'Corquodale have forwarded £200 to St. Thomas's Hospital out of the sum bequeathed to them for charitable purposes.

The Committee of the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, have received £1,700 from Mr. John Bentley, late of Highbury Grange, to enable them to pay off the debt remaining on the new front buildings and other improvements recently carried out at a total cost of over £30,000.

Many important and most interesting Papers were read at the Congress of the Sanitary Institute, held last week at Newcastle under the Presidency of the Duke of Cambridge, and we hope to give a digest of the papers read in the Women's Section next week.

Speaking at a conference of medical officers of health, Dr. Alfred Hill said that diphtheria had, for the last 20 years, been slowly but steadily increasing, but there was good ground to hope that the labours of bacteriologists and others would be crowned with splendid success. The mere digging out and fresh exposure of soil had been frequently observed to precede attacks of diphtheria, which lent probability to the hypothesis of bacilli existing in the soil. He referred to the liability of animals, particularly of cows and cats, to attacks of the disease, and spoke of the importance of notification, isolation, rigid exclusion of diphtheria cases from scarlet-fever wards, disinfection, regulation of school-attendance, the supervision of milk supplies, and the removal of dampness.

Papers were also read on other subjects and to the effect set forth in the following resolutions, which were adopted:—"That the Boards of Guardians have proved themselves to be entirely inefficient bodies to be entrusted with the administration of the Vaccination Acts, and this Section recommends the Council to commend to the attention of the Government the advisability of entrusting the administration of these Acts to some other authority; that this Section recommends to the Council of the Institute—(1) That some system of notification of human tuberculosis, at any rate when accompanied by a discharge, is desirable; (2) that Sanitary Authorities should urge the Management Committees of Hospitals, Workhouses, Schools, Asylums, &c., in their districts to give preference to farmers who will supply milk from herds guaranteed free from tuberculosis by the tuberculin test; (3) that Sanitary Authorities should advertise from time to time in local newspapers lists of farmers who supply milk from herds guaranteed free from tuberculosis by the tuberculin test, in order that private consumers may know where to obtain such milk; (4) that the Government be urged, first, to supply the tuberculin test free of charge to all farmers who agree to get rid of the animals shown by the test to be affected, and to only add to their herds in future such animals as stand the test, and, secondly, to insist on the marking of all

animals which when tested show the reaction, and to enact that such animals be sold only for slaughter and be slaughtered only under the supervision of qualified meat inspectors; (5) that the public abattoirs be established in every district, and that the use of them for slaughtering purposes and meat inspection be made compulsory; (6) that compensation be given to butchers for the carcasses of animals condemned for tuberculosis when these animals have been bought *bona fide* as sound and before slaughter showed no signs of disease or wasting."

Attention is being given by Hospital Managers to the necessity for thoroughly aseptic operating theatres, if the patients operated upon are to have the best chance of recovery. The committee of the Carlisle Infirmary have just passed unanimously the following resolution:—"That the Governors at this meeting authorise the Committee of Management to carry out the addition of a new operating room in accordance with their report and the plans already generally approved by the Committee." Temporary improvements are to be carried out in the operating theatre at the Swansea Hospital, it being the determination to build a new theatre and Nurses' Home later on.

Mr. Farquhar M. Laing proposes in the *Newcastle Journal* that the Guarantee Fund of £10,000 which was to have been advanced for the organisation of an exhibition in "the capital of the North" should be donated as a nucleus of a fund for rebuilding the the Royal Infirmary in honour of the sixtieth year of the Queen's reign. This is a wise suggestion.

The Annual Meeting of the British Association begins at Liverpool on the 16th of September.

We are glad to observe the following remarks, made by Mr. W. Pinckney, the Treasurer of the Salisbury General Infirmary, at the Annual Court of Governors:—"Mr. W. Pinckney said there was one thing which he should like to mention, and which he was anxious should not be lost sight of. Owing to Mr. Rogg having died and his executor having expressed a wish that the money he left to the Infirmary should be earmarked in some way, the Committee had paid it into the Building Fund account. Now, the great want of their institution was accommodation for the Nurses. Mr. Buckley had already alluded to the work which they did, and everybody knew that they had an excellent Nursing staff. The permanent Head Nurses, eight in number, were paid, but they had a number of Probationers who paid to come there, and he thought the least the Governors could do was to properly accommodate them. What he felt most strongly was that, when the Nurses were not on duty in their wards, they ought to be out of the ward atmosphere. They ought not to be obliged to sleep in apartments attached to the ward, because they then got not only the ward atmosphere by day but at night also, when they ought to be entirely free from it. Plans were prepared a long time ago for the erection of a detached building with a covered way leading to it, and now that they had the money in hand he thought it was time to think seriously about that or some other plan, and ask the Building Committee to proceed with the work if possible. He knew he should be met with the statement that they had not money enough. Mr. Buckley, the chairman, said that their annual sub-

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