

## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



MRS. J. E. COPE has been appointed Secretary to the Royal Eye Hospital. This is, we believe, the only case in London of a lady occupying such a position.

A Scotch correspondent writes: "No doubt you will have some account in the RECORD of the new Hospital for Leith from the construction point of view. But I send you a few jottings of what I think are somewhat of novelties in the Nursing department. The 'canny Scot' recognises that the 'ee of the Matron' cannot always be on the Nurses and servants, so a special method of building has been adopted to preserve order and discipline. The administrative block is arranged in four sections—the apartments for the heads of the staff, the Nurses' quarters, the ward-maids' rooms and the kitchen and laundry, with the bed-rooms for the kitchen and laundry-maids. Now this sounds very conventional, but it really is not. If only I could describe it more graphically! But the gist of it is that, while the Matron and the heads of the staffs can pass through the whole building by means of doors which open from one side only, the various other staffs cannot get beyond the portion of the building set apart for them! Which plan certainly simplifies the work of administration considerably.

There are other little contrivances which are labour-saving and practical. Between the two main wards are placed the Nurses' duty-rooms, which by means of windows on all sides commands a full view of each of the four wards. The Nurse from this 'duty-room' can also control the gas supply in each of the wards, and she can also communicate by telephone with every department of the administrative block. Over each patient's bed is an electric bell which rings into the duty-room, and a bedside table is affixed to every bed—a convenience much appreciated by patients and Nurses. Altogether, the Nurses and patients of the new Leith Hospital should have a very pleasant time."

It is stated that there are over 150 lepers in Paris. There is a special leper ward in the St. Louis Hospital, where the patients are treated by an infirmarian, who himself suffers from a mild form of leprosy. Dr. Hallopeau, of this Hospital, does not consider the leprosy now in France as strongly contagious, but entirely condemns the apathy of French sanitary laws, which allows scores of lepers to be at large, some of them being allowed to carry meat and other food, and to sleep at night in corners of the Halles Centrales or under bridges with other vagrants of both sexes.

The French Society for the Suppression of Tobacco Smoking is agitating to secure a law forbidding school-boys and clerks in the Government Post Office to smoke cigarettes, and also to make it illegal for tobacconists to sell anything to smoke to children.

Amongst the researches of the Society is the discovery that hypnotism acts as a complete cure for tabacomia.

An interesting and completely successful experiment with the Röntgen rays was made lately at Munich in connection with the International Psychological Congress. A living human body was placed under the action of the rays, and, with the aid of specially prepared tubes, observers were able to watch the action, not only of the osseous parts of the body, but also of the diaphragm, stomach, and heart. The experiment has attracted considerable attention in scientific circles.

The Board of Trade has received a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Rio de Janeiro reporting a serious outbreak of yellow fever on board a British vessel at that port, which is attributed to the ship's deck being washed down with water from alongside. Masters of vessels bound to Rio de Janeiro are cautioned against using the salt water from the bay for any purpose whatever; and it is suggested that masters of sailing vessels should sweep down decks every night and morning, and that bilges should be well cleaned and cement washed. Steamers should only use condensed water.

Subscriptions are being raised in aid of the building of a small Hospital at Kyrenia, Cyprus. The building, with provision for 18 or 20 beds, will cost £700, of which about £400 has been collected. In the present Institution, 237 in-patients were received during the past year, while a large number of persons received outdoor treatment. A site for the Hospital has been presented by the High Commissioner of Cyprus.

The Medical Officer of Health in Johannesburg reports to the Johannesburg Sanitary Board that, as far as he knows, the death-rate in Johannesburg is higher than that of any civilised town in the world.

From an Australian paper we learn that Mr. Otto B. Hug, the only Swiss somnolquist, diagnoses the patient without asking questions or any bodily examination, will describe the exact locality of pain and disease, and inform patients whether curable or not. Swiss and American herbs used. Patients at a distance can have their cases diagnosed by sending a lock of hair cut close to the head; no other person must touch patient's hair.

It would be interesting to know just what a "somnolquist" is. If he be a talker in his sleep we fail to see how he could prescribe for patients at a distance. It is rather a useful quality to have this power of treating patients during sleep—because in this way the physician is able to take fees both by day when he is working, and by night when he is sleeping. All he asks is a lock of hair and—10s. 6d.!

A novel kind of competition will take place next year under a provision in the will of the late Sir E. Chadwick, the great sanitary reformer. In accordance with his scheme, a shield worth £100, to be called the Chadwick Shield, will be given to the local sanitary authority which, having the separate drainage system, shows in five years the best reduction in its death-rate.

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