

## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The annual meeting of the British Association will this year take place at Bristol, on September 7th and the following days. The President this year is Sir William Crookes, F.R.S., who is also the President of the Psychical Research Society, and it is announced that he has been discussing with many scientific men how it will be possible to bring into his presidential address "some of the better proved phenomena of psychical research, such as telepathy, clairvoyance, and the like."

At an inquest held on Monday, at the Lambeth Coroner's Court, Mr. J. T. Hague, of Brixton, said he would like before leaving the witness box to say a few words respecting post-mortem examinations. He considered, as a general practitioner, that it was not fair to be called upon to make a post-mortem examination, he considered it very dangerous, as he might have to go straight away to visit a patient, probably a midwifery case. He thought a medical man should be appointed for the express purpose of making these examinations in each district.

The Coroner did not think the general body of medical practitioners would approve of Mr. Wyatt's views. We congratulate Mr. Wyatt on the courage of his convictions, and on his public expression of them. There is crying need of reform in this matter.

Once again, the fact that a man was sent away from Guy's Hospital as drunk, when he was, in point of fact, suffering from a fracture of the base of the skull, and two broken ribs, points to the necessity for detaining doubtful cases. The man was removed from Guy's Hospital to the Police Station, and thence to the Rotherhithe Infirmary where he died, primarily from laceration of the brain, through fracture of the skull. At the inquest which took place, the coroner, in addressing the jury, said that all people were liable to errors of judgment, but this was one of such magnitude on the part of the doctor that it would not be right to overlook it, neither could he exonerate the police.

The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, and added the following rider:—"In our opinion the house surgeon at Guy's Hospital committed a serious error of judgment in sending the man out of hospital while in such a dangerous condition."

Virtue is its own reward, so we are told. This is well, for it gets very little other. For instance, John Loudon, who sounded the charges of the "Heavies" at Balaclava, is now an inmate of the St. Pancras Workhouse. So much for the thanks of a grateful nation.

Yet another bathing fatality has occurred to the daughter of a medical man, and Sir Walter Foster, M.P. and his family have our sincerest sympathy. His youngest daughter, Miss Winifred Foster, was

drowned while bathing at Woolacombe near Ilfracombe in full view of members of her family, who were unable to save her.

An interesting presentation was recently made to Dr. Goodall, the Medical Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum, Carmarthen, on the occasion of his marriage with a Swedish lady, by the Committee of the Asylum. The presentation took the form of a silver tea-pot, cream-jug, and sugar-basin. The chairman, in presenting these, remarked upon the valuable services rendered by Dr. Goodall to the institution.

Mr. Richard Christy, of W. M. Christy and Sons, Limited, Stockport, hatters and Turkish towel manufacturers has bequeathed to the Manchester Royal Infirmary and to the Chichester Infirmary £250 each.

The War Offices has approved of plans for an infectious hospital for the Guards depôt at Caterham.

A new Lunatic Asylum is to be erected for Edinburgh at a cost of £235,000. Accommodation will be provided for 1,000 patients. The architect is Mr. Hippolyte J. Blanc, R.S.A. Special attention has been paid to the mortuary arrangements. The mortuary is duplicate, for the sexes, and the dissecting room, and a refrigerator adjoin it. It is comparatively near the hospital and is so arranged that the bodies may be removed, without observation, by any inmates.

The Report of the City of Dublin Corporation Committee on City Hospitals must be gratifying to those concerned in the management of those institutions. Sir Patrick Dun's and St. Vincent's Hospital received unqualified commendation. Dr. Steeven's Hospital "as regards order and cleanliness deserves special recognition and reflects the greatest possible credit upon those responsible." Everything was in "perfect order" at the Cork Street Fever Hospital. The Committee were "very much pleased to see the great improvements that have been effected" in the Coombe Hospital. They were "completely satisfied" with the Rotunda Hospital. The National Maternity Hospital has their approval in all respects. The arrangements at the Hospital for Incurables are "almost perfect in every detail." Of the Mater Misericordiae, the Committee "desire to express their fullest satisfaction." In the Meath Hospital everything is in good order. At the Hospice for the Dying "the arrangements are most satisfactory." The ratepayers, therefore, who contribute to the support of these hospitals may feel satisfied that their assistance is well bestowed.

The *Indian Medical Gazette*, for July, publishes an article on Field Hospitals in the Tirah Campaign, Their Defects and Remedies, which merits attention. The subject is dealt with in regard to Organization, Ambulance Transport, Equipment, Transport, and Guards and Encampment. The "pack animals" used for transport were, so we are told, the worst animals in the force. They were usually starved ponies, unfit for their work from the very day they were handed over. "At every halt, an inspection was made and ponies found unfit for work were cast, but as fresh animals were not available, the transport department adopted the simple expedient of collecting the cast ponies,

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