

## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



A CLASS is now being held at the Army Medical School at Netley for admission to the Royal Army Medical Corps, and a certain number of candidates are going through "their facings" for the honour. Nevertheless, their numbers do not come up to the requirements, and the result is the War Office authorities have been constrained to appeal to some of the medical schools to nominate gentlemen for admission to the corps *without examination!* St. Bartholomew's, St. Thomas's, Guy's, and others have been asked to nominate *two*.

Surgeon-General W. Taylor, who was the principal medical officer of the Khartoum expedition, will succeed Surgeon-General Gore as principal medical officer of the British forces in India.

The fact that Horsham treats its sewage at the Horsham Sewage Farm, at a distance of *one mile* from the new buildings of Christ's Hospital Schools, at Stammerham, is a very serious matter. It is reported that in certain currents of the wind this fact is only too apparent to residents in the surrounding area, and we are glad to learn that the authorities of Christ's Hospital are alive to the urgent necessity of improving the apparatus employed at the Sewage Farm, or of removing it altogether to a greater distance from the School. One would have thought that the proximity of such works would have rendered the site at Horsham absolutely unsuitable from the first, and we are surprised that the Governors of Christ's Hospital should, under the circumstances, have selected it for its present purpose.

Members of the Maidstone Company of the Volunteer Medical Staff Corps, to the number of forty, who gave their services as night nurses during the typhoid epidemic, were presented, on Wednesday evening, at the hands of the Mayor, on behalf of the Corporation, with medals in acknowledgment of their valuable services. Forty young men who assisted in a similar way were also the recipients of medals. At the same time Jubilee medals were presented to all the members of the V.M.S.C. who hold the certificate for first aid, and who were on duty in London on the occasion of the Jubilee procession.

Mr. G. Wills has offered to endow a cottage hospital for Moreton Hampstead, Devon.

A movement is now on foot in Edinburgh to induce the Corporation to start a municipal hospital for consumption. Already steps are being taken to induce the Town Council to make consumption a notifiable disease, and the efforts to combat one of the greatest scourges of civilization are now tending in the direction of municipal control. If the movement in Edinburgh is successful, and a municipal consumption hospital comes into being, it will no doubt be a step towards the establishment of municipal hospitals for all purposes,

in place of the present voluntary system. Every day it becomes more difficult to maintain hospitals upon the present footing, and no doubt the time is fast approaching when municipal hospitals will be the order of the day; but at the present moment the argument in favour of municipal consumptive hospitals is based upon the danger arising to the community from the infection caused by consumption in its last stages. As local bodies are now empowered to erect hospitals for many infectious diseases, it needs little extension of the powers already in existence to include consumption among the diseases specified in the Public Health Acts.

Work on the new Ayer Laboratory, connected with the Pennsylvania Hospital, at Philadelphia, is progressing rapidly, and it is expected that the building will be finished before the close of the present year, or early in 1899. This beautiful new Laboratory is the gift of the late Mrs. Josephine M. Ayer, and will cost £30,000.

The basement will be used mainly as a pathological museum. On the first floor, which will be devoted to autopsy purposes, there will be a mortuary chapel. This latter will be quite an innovation, and, it is believed, will often prove a great convenience when patients from places outside of the city die at the hospital. In such cases the relatives of the dead, on coming to a strange city, are often at a loss to know where to hold the obsequies. When the laboratory building is finished they can arrange for a funeral service in this mortuary chapel.

The second floor will be divided into apartments for bacteriological and chemical work. The attic will be utilized for scientific photography.

The New York correspondent of the *Daily Mail* records the treatment by Dr. Ramhard of a patient in the hopeless stage of lockjaw. As a last resort, the skull was trepanned on both sides, exposing the lobes of the brain. Tetanus serum was then injected directly into the brain tissue, and almost immediately the muscles of the jaw relaxed. The improvement has been steady and constant, the patient is able to masticate and take solid food, and his recovery seems certain. The operation is the eighth on record. The others occurred in Paris, and four of them were successful.

The Berlin newspapers have lately been telling, with great glee, of a triumph of science over crime. In one of the great offices of the German capital a number of petty thefts had been committed, the pockets of coats hanging in ante-rooms being visited and cigars and small change extracted. The police were for a time nonplussed, and invoked the aid of science. A professor being consulted, he advised the insertion of a delicate aniline powder in the mouth end of some cigars to be placed at the mercy of the thief. The next morning there was a summoning of the clerks and a general inspection of their mouths. One unhappy youth was discovered with aniline tongue and lips.

The Baroness Hirsch, has placed Tudor House, Hampstead Heath, which she has purchased at a cost of £16,000, in the hands of trustees, to be maintained as a convalescent home for Jewish consumptives,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)