

the earth, an oblate spheroid, a globe, that is to say, flattened at the poles. Into the upper flattened portion of the block the leg of the bed is sunk, while, on the lower portion, the bed glides smoothly and easily over the polished floor.

Special care is taken with regard to the expectoration of patients, which is now so universally recognised as a great source of infection. The patients are all provided with cheap pocket handkerchiefs which are burned each day, and the spittoons are twice a day, or oftener if necessary, placed in a covered tin, specially provided for the purpose. They are then taken away by a porter and the contents cremated; the spittoons are then cleansed and returned to the wards. The dust and sweepings of the wards are also burnt.

The comfort and well-being of the patients from a medical point of view, is not the only thing which is considered, for a beautiful chapel is provided for them in which service is held twice on Sunday, and where prayers are said every morning at 9.30, when all patients who are able, and desire to do so, are at liberty to attend. The chapel also is open to patients throughout the day.

Another thoughtful provision is an excellent music hall, where concerts are held weekly, and which has a stage well adapted for theatricals. A specially charming room in this hospital is the board room which is quite ideal.

Passing on to the out-patient department, one sees this part of the work in admirable order, under the supervision of a Sister. The patients are typical of the place, and if one were set down in it without knowing one's whereabouts, one would have no difficulty in knowing that one was in a hospital for diseases of the chest. The faces, and the occasional coughs are quite typical.

A kindly provision is made for waiting patients in a bar, at which they can obtain a bowl of hot soup, with a piece of bread, for one penny, besides other refreshments. The sale was in full swing when I visited this department, and I sampled the soup and found it most excellent. It was very tasty, contained plenty of vegetables, and was served piping hot. What more can one desire for a penny?

The Nursing Staff are, at present, housed in the Hospital—a not altogether desirable arrangement, but the ground upon which to build a Nurses' Home has now been secured and cleared, and building will now shortly be begun. The building of a supplementary hospital in the country, where the open air treatment of consumption can be carried out, in a way impossible in London, is also in contemplation, and when in working order will prove a most valuable adjunct to the splendid institution, so admirably arranged, at Brompton.

M. B.

## Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



Her Majesty the Queen exhibited a large quantity of chrysanthemums and fruit at the annual show of the Birmingham Chrysanthemum Society, and generously issued a command to her head gardener, which had the effect of extending the pleasure of the show not only to those people who were able to visit it, but to those unfortunate ones whom sickness or accident have confined to the city hospitals. At the close of the show, by her Majesty's command, the fruit which was sent from Windsor was placed at the disposal of the committee of the show for distribution amongst the Birmingham hospitals.

Mr. Alderman Treloar has received the following letter from the Prince of Wales, in answer to a communication respecting the success of the distribution of Christmas hampers to 4,000 crippled children last year in connection with the Guildhall banquet to poor children:—

"Marlborough House, October 5th.—Dear Sir,—I have submitted to the Prince of Wales your letter of September 27th, and, in reply, I am desired to inform you that His Royal Highness will be happy to contribute the sum of £5 to the fund which you are again kindly raising for the purpose of providing dinners and hampers for the crippled children of London at Christmas next.—Yours faithfully, D. M. Probyn, General Comptroller and Treasurer."

Contributions to the fund will be received at 68, Ludgate Hill, E.C., addressed to Mr. Alderman Treloar; or at 37, Norfolk Street, Strand, W.C., addressed to the Marquess of Northampton. The intention is to distribute, if possible, hampers to the whole number of deserving crippled children, upwards of 5,000, registered on the books of the Ragged School Union.

Can consumption be stamped out? The hope is certainly encouraged by the letter which Sir Samuel Wilks, Sir William MacCormac, and Sir W. H. Broadbent, as representing the organising committee of the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, have addressed to the County Council. They put the L.C.C. on the back for the sanitary measures it is taking, and express themselves strongly of opinion that there is urgent necessity for them, declaring that if the Council can prevent the sale of tubercle-infected milk in London, and ensure the proper examination of meat by the substitution of public for private slaughterhouses, there is every prospect of reducing the present mortality from consumption, especially among the poor, who more particularly suffer from the effects of milk and meat of dangerous quality.

The Duke of Devonshire presided at the annual meeting of the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary, of which he has, during the past year, acted as president. His Grace said the town and county of Derby were entitled to great credit for having raised a sum of £100,000 for the rebuilding and furnishing of that institution, which was now one of the finest and best-equipped hospitals in the kingdom. He reminded them that the support

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