

The despatch went out as "Wounded but saved." Alas!" Miss Barton adds, "It was only for a little while; two day later it was all over." Miss Barton passed on from one to another till twelve had been spoken to and their names taken. "There were only two of the number who did not recognise me. The expression of grateful thanks spoken under such conditions was too much. I passed the pencil to another hand and stepped aside."

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MISS BARTON has only praise for the unfailing courtesy of the Spanish officials. "From our first interview," she says, "to the last day when we decided it was better to withdraw, giving up all efforts at relief, and leave those thousands of poor dying wretches to their fate, there was never any change in the attitude of General Blanco or his staff toward myself or any member of my staff. One of my last visits before the blockade was to the palace. "The same kindly spirit prevailed. I was begged not to leave the island through fear of them; every protection in their power would be given. But there was no guarantee for what might occur in the exigencies of war. I recall an incident of that day. General Blanco led me to the large salon, the walls of which are covered with the portraits of the Spanish officials for generations past and pointing to the Spanish authorities under date of 1776 said, with a look of sadness, 'When your country was in trouble Spain was the friend of America, now Spain is in trouble America is her enemy.' I knew no answer for this but silence, and we passed out through the corridor of guards, he handing me to my carriage with a farewell and a blessing."

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UPON the advice of the Consul General at Havana the Red Cross retired when the President recalled all Americans home. The day before they left Cuba the Archbishop of Havana publicly blessed the Lee Orphanage in the presence of a large crowd. In the eyes of all Catholics, Cuban and Spanish alike, this blessing was a symbol of protection by the Church and a warrant of success. Hence Miss Barton was not surprised to learn several months after the war had begun that the Spanish authorities had not only taken the most scrupulous care of the hospital, but had also placed a guard around her former private residence. After the war some of the Red Cross party visited the residence and the orphanage, and found everything in the best order at the house, though, as was inevitable, the hospital showed signs of neglect and disorder. Cuba has not yet learned to recognize the vicinage of godliness and cleanliness.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The Prince of Wales will be present at the delivery, by Sir William MacCormac, of the Hunterian oration at the Royal College of Surgeons this year, and will dine with the College the same evening. In making this announcement, the *Lancet* says:

"It is not the first time that the Prince of Wales has honoured the Hunterian orator by attending the delivery of the oration, nor that his

Royal Highness has dined with the College, but there are circumstances that make his presence especially gratifying to the College this year. The Prince of Wales has clearly designed to do honour to the medical profession at a time when he has just received the benefits of surgery, while his host on the occasion will be the surgeon responsible for the line of treatment which was then adopted.

"The Royal College of Surgeons of England, remembering that the Prince is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London, may desire (adds the *Lancet*) to give him the second qualification necessary to registration, and elect him a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England."

The Duke and Duchess of York will visit Portsmouth on March 1st to open the new wings of the Royal Portsmouth Hospital which have been erected as a memorial of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

At the first meeting of the Association of Poor Law Unions of England and Wales, held on January 25th, at the Strand Union Board Room, the Rev. Dr. Cox brought forward the question of old-age pensions, and moved for a committee to report on the matter in its relation to the poor law. This was seconded by Mr. J. Brown, and was carried unanimously. The committee was instructed to report with as little delay as possible to the council in order that some definite proposals may be laid before the meeting of the association next June.

Mr. W. Hunting, F.R.C.V.S., an ex-president of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, recently read a paper on "Tuberculosis in Animals," at a meeting of the Society of Arts. Mr. Hunting described tuberculosis as a disease which is spread solely by the transmission of the microbe from diseased to healthy bodies. After enumerating the suggested methods of dealing with the plague, recommended by the Royal Commission on Tuberculosis, and other authorities, Mr. Hunting said our administrators knew perfectly well what their trusted advisers had recommended and what ought to be done. The loss from tuberculosis was 70,000 persons and 40,000 cattle every year. Was this not sufficiently serious to demand action? Legislation was inevitable, and it must follow the lines indicated in the summary of recommendations he had given. The hesitation of the Government to undertake legislative interference was due simply to fear of

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