

## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE removal of the old Royal Infirmary at Manchester from its present central position in the town seems inevitable, and must be a matter of regret to all those who have worked, as we have, in this grand old hospital, but it is thought that the new Infirmary which is to be built should be erected on a more spacious and airy site. This may be wise, but—well, there is always a but—the stately old pile will be sorely missed by the pedestrians along Piccadilly.

It is proposed that the Manchester Corporation pay for the site, in cash the sum of £250,000, and that a further sum of £100,000 be paid in twenty annual subscriptions, making a total of £350,000. The Corporation are, moreover, to reserve on the present site 3,000 square yards for a Receiving House and Out Patients' Department.

On behalf of the Royal Hospital for Consumption, at Ventnor, the eleventh block of which was opened on the 9th inst. by Princess Henry of Battenberg, an appeal is made to meet the cost of furnishing. Accommodation, when the new block is added, will be provided for a hundred and twenty-five inmates. The open-air treatment is the essential feature of the institution, and it is necessary to note in connection with this system that out of the large numbers who have received the advantages of the place this year there have been only four deaths, while many have been restored to health and enabled again to support their families.

The plague has reappeared in Calcutta. Though there are few deaths officially announced the total mortality has risen over 60 per cent., and it is feared that many cases of plague are unreported.

The disease is raging fearfully at Bangalore and Poona. This, combined with the imminent danger of a big famine in the central provinces, makes the outlook very grave.

*The Times* says six cases of plague have occurred during the week, making a total of eighty since May 4th. Of these thirty-seven have been fatal, thirty-nine have been cured, and four still remain in hospital. Twenty doctors, each with a staff of assistants, are constantly working at cleansing the dirtier quarters of the city, with the result that, while the mortality during July in the five preceding years averaged 939, it amounted to only 836 last month. These figures are regarded as showing conclusively that few, if any, cases of plague elude the vigilance of the sanitary authorities.

A record case of childbirth occurred recently at Bletchley, near Fenny Stratford, where a woman gave birth in a lodging house to six children. They were all still-born. Dr. Nicholson, who attended, has embalmed the bodies, and sent them to the Anatomical Museum, London. The poor woman was subsequently removed to the union infirmary at Fenny Stratford.

Some time ago, a woman went to St. Vincent's Hospital, U.S.A., to have an operation performed. She was put under ether, and when she regained consciousness after the operation she complained of pain in one leg. It was found that a hot-water bottle was lying on the leg and had caused injuries which, it is claimed, resulted in permanent disability. The patient sued the hospital for 30,000 dollars damages. At the trial the complaint was dismissed, the judge affirming that the hospital authorities could not be held responsible. The case was appealed against and the Appellate Division decided that the hospital cannot escape responsibility in that way, and a new trial has been ordered.

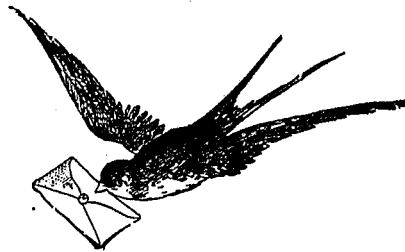
In this country such negligence has, on more than one occasion, involved an institution in heavy damages.

## Our Foreign Letter.

### PLAGUE NURSING IN INDIA.

NO 6.—LIFE IN A NATIVE STATE.

(Continued from page 508.)



KODAYA, a village six miles distant from Gundiali, or a two hours' journey by byle-gari, and to which Miss H. had gone some time before, was also

my next centre. Here the conditions of work were different. There were three hospitals—the Hindu, the Mahomedan, and the Magwar—and all some little distance from each other.

The Hindu embraced all the castes, except the lowest, the Magwars or Sweepers; these were kept quite apart, and must not even have their medicines from the same glass. In Mandvi and Gundiali, this caste had suffered scarcely at all from plague, although from the nature of their work and habits they would have seemed the most susceptible. These are the serfs of the Rao of Cutch, and are placed in the towns under the municipal magistrate, their duties being to keep the streets clean—and their task is no sinecure in a land where drainage is unknown—to remove all cutchra or rubbish, and any dead animals without the bounds of the city, and for this they are allowed a daily pittance. At any time they may be required to give up the work they are doing, and at once do the bidding of the Rao or any of his officials. Many of them are industrious, weaving on crude hand-looms in their homes the coarse cotton cloth used by the agriculturalists in the fields, and which is sometimes dyed to make the gagras or full skirts of the women. Indeed, some of them grow rich, and are not without ambition; a few manage to learn to read and write, but no facilities are held out to them, and nothing advances them in the social scale. Their quarter here was remarkably clean and tidy for their caste; but now they had plague badly, so that it was necessary to search in their houses as much as elsewhere. It was amusing to see the look of disgust and aloofness on the faces of the

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