

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE conclusion of the Committee appointed by the Treasury to consider the desirability of founding a national physical laboratory is that a public institution should be founded for standardising and verifying instruments for testing materials, and for the determination of physical constants. They further propose that the laboratory should be established at Kew, that the Royal Society should be invited to control the proposed institution, and that the permanent secretary of the Board of Trade should be an ex-officio member of the Governing Body.

A difference has arisen between the Stockport Medical Society and the local St. John's Ambulance Associations. The *British Medical Journal* says that "in spite of strenuous efforts in certain quarters to prevent inquiry into the past management of the local centre, and the conduct of the local Honorary Secretary, the Central Executive Committee, after careful consideration of the matter, have offered to appoint as arbitrators three gentlemen quite independent of Stockport, provided all parties agree to accept their decision as final. This offer has been accepted by the Stockport Medical Society. If the local Hon. Secretary declines to agree to this proposal the whole matter will, it is stated, be investigated by the local centre, from whose decision an appeal would lie to the Central Executive Committee in London. In the meantime no apology having been tendered by the local Hon. Secretary, and the position remaining practically unaltered, the members of the Stockport Medical Society strictly adhere to the resolution not to lecture in connection with the local centre."

Mr. Bracken, chairman of the Templemore Urban Council, Ireland, had to pay a fine recently for acting as chairman and road contractor to the council at the same time. As a consequence he was obliged to resign the former position, whereupon the members of the council elected his wife to the chair, in which capacity she conducted the business last week.

Remarkable experiments with the kinematograph in the service of medicine have just been made in Kiel before a select company assembled in the University. There were present the Prince of Monaco, Professor Von Esmarch, the famous surgeon, and numerous doctors, professors, and medical students. The celebrated French surgeon, M. Doyen, who had charge of the experiments, explained that no work on surgical practice was able to describe operations so carefully and fully as to avoid the possibility of erroneous treatment by the operator. M. Doyen, by means of certain alterations in the kinematograph, has been enabled to take a perfect series of pictures of various kinds of operations from the first cut of the knife to the laying on of bandages. Every phase of the operations was thrown on the screen with marvellous accuracy. M. Doyen insists that his invention will be of incalculable benefit to students of surgery. The French doctor received an ovation from the medical students assembled to witness the experiments.

The New York Park Commissioners have under advisement the placing of booths for the sale of sterilised milk in the public parks as a philanthropic movement to put within the reach of thousands of mothers to whom the parks are the only accessible health resorts the proper nutriment for their sick babes, the milk to be sold at a nominal price, or to be given away in needy cases. It is maintained that this plan will do much to lessen the mortality among infants during the summer months.

Happy New York babies. There will be no excuse now to give them "a little of what we have ourselves," or "anything that's going," including red herring, pickled cabbages, and tea, which are the portion of too many English infants.

The International Otological Congress.

THE Sixth International Otological Congress was held last week in the Examination Hall of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons on the Victoria Embankment. The Congress is especially interesting as being the first ever held in this country, the former ones having been held in New York in 1876, in Milan in 1880, in Baden in 1884, in Brussels in 1888, and in Florence in 1895.

In addition to the Congress a Museum was arranged, which was stated by the English President, Professor Urban Pritchard, to a press representative to be "the most remarkable collection of anatomical, pathological, and other things essential to the study of otology ever seen." The British section embraced a complete collection demonstrating the comparative anatomy, embryology, anatomy, injuries and diseases, tumours, and malformations of the ear, nose, and nasopharynx, while Austria, Belgium, France, Denmark, Germany, Holland, Italy, Switzerland, Norway, also sent exhibits, upon some of which medical representatives of the countries mentioned gave interesting lectures to an attentive audience. It was well that admission to the museum was limited to members of the medical profession, for some of the specimens were distinctly gruesome. Such exhibitions, however, cannot fail to be in the highest degree instructive and most valuable. The Congress opened with a reception at the Examination Hall, given by the President and the Organization Committee, and the following morning (Tuesday, August 8th) an address was given by the President, Professor Urban Pritchard, who, first in the name of the British members, welcomed the foreign guests, spoke of the losses the Society had sustained through the death of illustrious members during the past year, and then proceeded to comment on the history of otological science, and concluded by expressing the thanks of the Congress to the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons for the use of the Examination Hall, as well as for the loan of valuable and interesting specimens to the museum. Sir William MacCormac having replied, Professor Grazi (Florence), the President of the last Congress, gave an address and offered a vote of thanks to Professor Urban Pritchard and the British Organization Committee for their successful organization of the Congress.

The staircase of the Examination Hall was beautifully decorated with palms, crotons, and other variegated plants, which added not a little to the effectiveness of the arrangements.

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