

## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE successor to the late Sir Richard Thorne Thorne as medical officer of the Local Government Board has been appointed. He is Mr. William Henry Power F.R.S. Mr. Power has been acting as assistant medical officer of the Board. Dr. H. Franklin Parsons has been appointed assistant medical officer and medical inspector for general sanitary purposes, and Dr. R. Bruce Low has also been appointed an assistant medical officer of the Board.

The Mansion House Fund for the Transvaal War sufferers amounts to over £622,000, of which £59,000 had been remitted as the result of the collections on "Queen's Sunday." Her Majesty has, through Sir A. Bigge, expressed her gratification to the Lord Mayor at "the large sum which has been so generously given."

Influenza still continues, and the prospect for members when Parliament re-opens is not a pleasant one, as members of the House of Commons in former years have suffered much from it. The cleansing and ventilation of the House of Commons may with advantage occupy the attention of those responsible for its sanitary condition.

The *British Medical Journal* points out in this connection that rats and rabbits kept in cages in an atmosphere of sewer gas have been found to succumb to disease germs, when they were absolutely unhurt if kept in the open air. Rats in the same way are liable to infection if they have fatigued themselves in revolving cages, and fowls, usually free from anthrax, are no longer safe if their feet have been chilled in cold water. Hence the lesson for legislators is to insist upon proper ventilation at Westminster, and to believe implicitly in the doctor's advice that they must keep in high condition and good spirits—all the more necessary because of the serious nature of the business that they have to take in hand.

The ways of the War Office are deliberate. Over thirty years ago, a British expedition was sent to Canada, to repel the Fenian Invasion and the Red River rising. The other day a parcel was delivered at General Buller's house, addressed Captain Redvers Buller, 4th Battalion King's Royal Rifles. It contained the medal with three clasps, for the General's first campaign more than thirty years ago.

The German Emperor has just conferred the Order of the Red Eagle, Third Class, upon Professor Buchheim, of King's College, London, in recognition of the services he has rendered to the study of German in this country.

The committee of the Imperial Yeomanry Hospital Fund have made the following additional appointments: Dr. John Wichenford Washbourn, M.D. London, F.R.C.P. London, F.R.C.S. England, Physician and Lecturer at Guy's Hospital, and Physician to the London Fever Hospital; Mr. Raymond Johnson, M.D., B.S.

London, F.R.C.S. England, Assistant Surgeon to University College Hospital and to the Victoria Hospital for Children; Mr. F. Newland-Pedley, F.R.C.S. England, L.D.S., Senior Dental Surgeon to Guy's Hospital, and Lecturer on Dental Surgery in the Guy's Hospital Dental School. All vacancies on the medical staff have now been filled.

No. 6 General Hospital, mobilised at Portsmouth, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel B. Somerville-Large, R.A.M.C., was inspected on Saturday by Surgeon-General Cuffe, C.B., Principal Medical Officer Southern District, who expressed himself highly pleased with the excellent appearance of all on parade.

The *Lancet* makes some wise remarks on the necessity for more sleep in these days of nervous strain. It says: "We improve our sanitation and our general hygiene, and we abolish the plagues of our forefathers, but we work our nervous systems more in a day than they did in a week, and we fall victims to insomnia and the whole train of nervous disorders in which worry, overwork, and want of sleep occur as etiological factors. Sleep all men must have who use their brains much, and especially all men whose work is associated with extra worries." It is difficult to contemplate with equanimity the demand upon the nervous organisation of the next generation if things move on at the present rate.

The Rev. J. W. Adams, V.C., who preached at Sandringham last Sunday on the anniversary of the death of General Gordon, is the only clergyman who has received the Victoria Cross. He won it for gallantry in the battle of Charasiah, near Cabul, in 1879, soon after the entry of Sir Frederic Roberts into the City.

A new casualty ward is to be erected at the West Bromwich District Hospital at a cost of £500. The president of the hospital, Mr. John H. Chance, has undertaken to bear the whole cost of the new building.

A vaccination officer having been appointed by the Leicester Board of Guardians, the writs of attachment against twenty-two members were ordered by Mr. Justice Channell to be discharged, the costs as between solicitor and client being paid by the Guardians concerned.

Mr. Thomas Aitken, of the London and Edinburgh Shipping Company, a resident of Edinburgh, has given a sum of £40,000 in aid of the funds of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. Mr. Aitken, who is a widower, has been twice married, and the gift is made in remembrance of both ladies. A ward will be named after the donor.

Nikola Tesla, the celebrated electrician, has completed his experiments in wireless telegraphy, and is convinced that he will be able in a very short time to communicate from New York with every city in the world. He hopes to attain a speed of from 1,500 to 2,000 words a minute.

An assistant doctor at the Bacteriological Institute at Cracow, named M. Kostanecki, has fallen a victim to his love of scientific research, having died with every symptom of plague.

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