

## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



King Edward and Queen Alexandra, the Dowager-Empress of Russia, the Crown Prince, and the Grand Duke Peter of Oldenburg, last Friday visited Professor Finsen's new light cure hospital at Rosenvaenget, and spent over an hour in the institution. The Professor showed the royal party his latest inventions, and was greatly surprised by the intimate knowledge evinced by the King of the details of the process. The royal visitors honoured several lupus patients by conversing with them.

At a meeting of the Council of the Hospital Sunday Fund held recently at the Mansion House, under the Lord Mayor's presidency, a letter was read from Mr. Henry N. Custance, tendering—in consequence of the breakdown of his health—his resignation of the office of secretary, which he had held for twenty-eight years. The Council decided to give Mr. Custance six months further leave of absence from November 1st next, in the hope that at the expiration of that period he would be able to continue his valuable work.

On the recommendation of the Joint Select Committee of the House of Lords and House of Commons on Charitable Agencies for Relief of Widows and Orphans of Soldiers and Sailors, the Patriotic Fund is to be abolished, and two boards, to be known as the Naval and Military Pensions Boards, established.

The duties of these boards will be (1) to administer the Government pensions, (2) to supplement such Government pensions by administering the funds now vested in the Royal Patriotic Fund Commissioners, which should be transferred to the boards, and (3) to administer any other moneys which may be placed at their disposal for the purpose of being expended in pensions to widows and orphans.

There is, however, no suggestion of "pooling" other funds formed with the same object, and until some system of the kind takes place, the danger of overlapping will continue. The Pensions Boards are to be subject to the control of Parliament.

The Royal servants at Windsor Castle have subscribed over £300 for a separate memorial for themselves to the late Queen Victoria, and have endowed a bed at St. Andrew's Convalescent Hospital, Clewer, near Windsor, for six months every year for ever.

Dr. Edward Jepson, of Durham, calls attention to some anomalies existing in the Public Health Service in this country. He says: "In nearly all cases—at least in the provinces—the medical officer of health is only appointed for one year, and if he should displease one or more of the board electing him, even in the faithful discharge of his duties, it is not a difficult thing to displace the officer and put somebody else in his place. The Local Government Board in London requires a Medical Officer of Health to comply with certain regulations

laid down by them. If these are faithfully attended to friction is often caused with the district boards who appoint him; he may seek protection from the authority in London, but they do not always afford it." After stating that the same medical officer must also be responsible to the county council, and thus has to serve three masters, he concludes: "What we really want is a new Public Health Act on a strong and sound basis, ensuring the position of the medical officer of health, as well as giving more security and confidence to the public."

The Rev. Richard Wilson, of St. Augustine's, Stepney, known as the "Hopper's Parson," is nothing if not original. As a case of smallpox has occurred in the hop fields he has conceived the idea of forestalling an outbreak by holding "vaccination concerts" each evening.

The concert takes place in a large marquee on the village green at Five Oak Green, while in an adjoining tent the vaccination officer, assisted by the nurses from the "Little Hoppers' Hospital," is hard at work vaccinating all of the audience who can be persuaded to undergo the operation, the "Hoppers' Parson" having himself led the way by being vaccinated.

The idea has caught on, and the doctor is kept hard at work until half past ten every evening.

At the instance of Dr. McDowall, the medical superintendent of the Northumberland County Asylum at Morpeth, an outdoor department has been established in connection with the Royal Infirmary at Newcastle for the treatment of mental cases. The usefulness of the new department has been already demonstrated.

In the mathematical and physical science section of the meeting of the British Association at Glasgow, Mr. Rideal praised sulphuric acid as a typhoid disinfectant, and Sir William Roberts-Austen, designated by the *Daily Mail* the "Wizard of the Royal Mint," presided over a meeting where Dr. J. H. Gladstone performed miracles with tin and water.

An interesting paper was that by Miss Raisin D.S.C. of Bedford College, on the Island of Perim and its relation to the Red Sea.

Dr. Stellevag, the famous oculist, in the course of a lecture to his students at Vienna, told a pretty story of the late Don Pedro of Brazil. He said that he had had many opportunities of conversing with the late ex-Emperor, a man whose heart and mind were always filled with plans for improving the condition of the people. It was one of his dearest wishes to have a big hospital in Rio, but he lacked the money wherewith to build it, and the wealthy could not be induced to subscribe. Then an idea came to him. He began to bestow titles. Any man who was willing to give a good round sum to the hospital could call himself a "Count," "Viscount," or "Baron." The patent of nobility was not hereditary, and if the children wished to inherit the father's title, they had to pay over again. Rio was suddenly peopled with nobles, and the hospital was built on a grand scale. When it was completed, the emperor placed over its gates, "Human vanity to human misery."

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