

## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR



The Honorary Secretaries of the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund for London have received at the Bank of England the sum of One Hundred Guineas from the King, who has been pleased to continue the annual subscription which His Majesty—as Prince of Wales—has hitherto contributed to this Fund.

Field-Marshal Earl Roberts has consented to preside at a festival dinner to be held at the Hotel Cecil on November 20th in aid of the Victoria Hospital for Children, Queen's Road, Chelsea. The object of the festival, as stated in a special appeal issued in connection with it, is to raise funds for the erection of a new wing containing six wards, an addition urgently needed to meet the ever increasing demands on the hospital accommodation. The present building contains only forty-two beds, a number now found to be altogether inadequate; the new wing, which is to be built on the ground adjoining and belonging to the hospital, will contain more than double the present number of beds, besides isolation wards for suspicious cases. The old building will still be used for offices, board room, dining-room, and increased accommodation for the nurses. The sum of £25,000 is required for the new building, of which £6,000 has already been raised. In connection with the dinner a ladies' committee is being formed for the purpose of collecting funds, Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, and Countess Cadogan having kindly placed themselves at the head of the movement. Offers of support will be welcomed by the secretary, Mr. H. G. Evered, at the hospital.

During the discussion which followed the last of an interesting series of lectures on the Tuberculosis Congress, given at Gresham College, Basinghall Street, Dr. Symes Thompson said in answer to a statement made that nurses did not easily contract tubercular disease, that it was during the last forty years nurses had become less prone to tubercular disease. He attributed it to the improved ventilation of hospitals.

With reference to a remark he made in a previous lecture as to tubercular organisms flourishing in stagnant air, Dr. Thompson said that whilst tubercles flourished in stagnant air, typhoid tubercles developed in stagnant water. Dr. Thompson, in conclusion, said it was not for everybody to try the open-air treatment for themselves. It was a treatment which required a great deal of knowledge and judgment, and unless these were given to it harm was likely to result.

The Committee of the General Hospital, Bristol, has decided to introduce the new light treatment of lupus, and has received a generous offer from Sir William Wills to defray the cost of one year's trial of the process.

The epidemic of typhus continues to rage at Gelsenkirchen, Westphalia. One thousand and eighty cases have been reported in the town and district.

## Professional Review.

## CLIMATE.

We have received the October number of *Climate*, an excellent monthly publication edited by C. F. Harford-Battersby, M.A., M.D., and published at the Travellers' Health Bureau, 133, Salisbury Square, Fleet Street, E.C., price 6d. The current issue is practically a malarial one, and is specially opportune, as malaria is a topic of general interest just now; and the excellent illustrations and charts add not a little to the attractiveness of the publication.

It opens with some editorial notes on the work of Major Ross as a sanitary reformer in West Africa, more especially at Free Town, Sierra Leone, where the larvæ of mosquitos have been destroyed, and houses where they formerly swarmed have been freed from these pests which are not only one of the chief discomforts of tropical life, but have also now been proved to be its greatest danger.

The campaign against this insect has had the most cordial support and assistance of the Governor of Lagos, Sir William MacGregor, who is himself actively engaged in measures for the extirpation of the mosquito. Chief amongst these may be mentioned extensive schemes for draining marshy places, and the employment of prisoners to fill up dangerous hollows with sand from the lagoon, the fitting of the windows of houses with wire gauze as a hindrance to the entrance of mosquitos, the adoption of the use of quinine as a prophylactic, the institution of a series of lectures on health, with special reference to the subject of malaria, which are free to school teachers and others, and lastly the organization of a League of educated African ladies in Lagos, which deals with the question of malaria among the infant population, and encourages the use of quinine. The Ladies' League numbers ninety-five members, who are the most refined and highly educated ladies in the community. We confess it comes as a surprise to us that Lagos can muster this number of highly educated ladies, in East Africa this would certainly be impossible. The infant mortality in Lagos is appalling, 42 per cent. of all the children dying before they are a year old. Thus there is ample scope for the work of the Ladies' League, which is to assist the less enlightened people of their country, to preach the use of quinine, the prevention of fever by scientific methods, and the cleanliness of private houses.

*Climate* then deals with the report of the Malaria Expedition to Nigeria of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. The expedition took place last year, and consisted of three medical men, Drs. Annett, Dutton, and Elliott. They gave special attention (a) to the observation of the habits of mosquitos, their breeding places and methods of propagation, (b) to the collection of statistics as regards the prevalence of malaria at certain seasons, (c) to the examination of the blood of native children, (d) to the investigation of the conditions of life of Europeans in Southern and Northern Nigeria.

It is a matter of considerable interest that the expedition practically confirmed the statistics issued by Dr. Koch with regard to German New Guinea, namely, that the blood of the younger native children

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