

## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The Queen has approved of the new hospital steamer, now being built for work among North Sea fishing fleets by the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen, being called the Queen Alexandra. Her Majesty is the society's patron.

The King is taking keen personal interest in the British Congress on Tuberculosis, which opens in London on the 22nd inst. At his Majesty's request, and on his behalf, the Duke of Cambridge will open the Congress. Papers will be read by eminent specialists, and the whole subject will be very fully dealt with. Mr. Malcolm Morris is honorary general secretary, and Sir Arthur Trendall has been appointed honorary assistant secretary. There will be numerous statistical debates, discussions on the influence of housing and aggregation, papers on the control of the milk and meat supplies, the provision of sanatoria, the climatology of consumption, etc. One of the features of the four days' congress will be a discussion on tuberculin, with the inventor (Dr. Koch) taking part. Another interesting debate will centre round phthisis in animals. The lighter side of life will not be neglected. There will be conversazioni to the members, receptions (by, among others, the Earl of Derby), and excursions to sanatoria and other places of interest. The delegates are looking forward to a very gay as well as instructive time.

The *Wiener Medizinische Wochenschrift* publishes a letter addressed to Professor Clifford Albutt, of Cambridge, by Professor Moriz Benedikt, of the Vienna University, who has been unable to accept an invitation to the Tuberculosis Congress in London. Professor Benedikt says: "As the subject of tuberculosis will, doubtless, be taken up, after the Congress, by the English government, and by municipalities and philanthropists, on a grand scale, it will be very necessary to avoid serious blunders. Nowhere is philanthropy so wasteful as in England. For heaven's sake do not build huge pretentious palaces and hospitals, like big barracks, which in time would become strongholds of *bacilli*. Every home for consumptives should be so planned that it can be demolished or burnt down without much trouble when it can no longer be kept free from infection. A hut system is accordingly to be preferred, and the fittings must be so selected, as to material and form, that they can be effectively disinfected. The mistake generally made is to spend all the money in hand on building. One must not forget how much philanthropy has to do, in regard to tuberculosis, in looking after the family when the bread-winner is in a home for consumptives; and, when he leaves it, with reduced power of work and resistance, in seeing that he does not take refuge in the demon of alcohol, and ruin both himself and his family. Small colonies, in localities free from dust and wind, are preferable to large sanatoria. Less serious cases might perhaps be entrusted to families

living in suitable spots, for payment, and under the superintendence of doctors, as the danger of infection from single patients is not considerable."

The new Pathological Institute, in connection with the London Hospital, was opened on Wednesday by Sir Henry Roscoe, and was a great occasion. It is a post-mortem department which claims to be far in advance of anything of the kind elsewhere. It is designed not only to have an effect upon the beneficial treatment of patients in the hospital, but to be of the utmost value in the education of medical men. It affords facilities long desired in every big hospital, but never secured to the same extent, for the full and proper examination, in properly constructed rooms, of the bodies of all persons dying from some undiagnosed disease. The pathological histology of each case can thus be fully and completely recorded.

The new department is one of the many in that veritable town of hospital buildings which are screened from the public gaze by the front block in the White-chapel Road. Apart from the actual operating rooms of the post-mortem theatre, there are class-rooms upstairs for the investigation and study of morbid specimens. It is airy, with a ventilating system as near as possible perfection. One thoughtful touch of nature shows us sentiment going hand-in-hand with science. There is a little mortuary chapel with biers draped in spotless white, whither come the sorrowing relatives for that "last look" which is never forgotten, and in niches in the walls there are vases in which are constantly to be seen fresh-cut lilies.

This is a detail greatly appreciated by this journal, which has on many occasions drawn attention to the gruesome mortuaries attached to many London hospitals—and pleaded for reconstruction.

As a result of Archdeacon Wilberforce's two collections at St. John's, Westminster, on Hospital Sunday, the Lord Mayor's fund will receive £33 11s. 2d., while the special hospital to be selected by Lord Llangattock as being free from all connection with vivisection, will receive £94 3s. 4d.

The wounded and sick members of the Imperial Yeomanry, who passed through the Victoria Hospital in Rhodesia, have subscribed in gratitude £43 for the purchase of a piano, to be presented to the hospital for the use of the nurses. The Civil Service Musical Instrument Association, Holborn, is supplying the piano.

The latest scheme for the prevention of sea-sickness is Dr. Calliano's belt, with which the late King Humbert of Italy was so delighted that he personally complimented the inventor. The idea of the belt is beautifully simple. You just strap it around your body and screw it so tight that the internal arrangements are crowded into a state of inactivity, and nothing happens. Whatever the theory of relief may be it is beyond question that the belt has worked wonders with old-established sufferers. Delegates to Buffalo take note.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)