

Annotations.

CORONATION GIFTS TO THE KING.

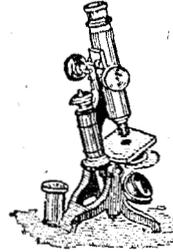
The Lord Mayor on Monday last presided at a meeting held at the Mansion House with the object of giving effect to the proposal to present a gift from the nation to the King on the occasion of his Majesty's Coronation. There was an influential attendance. The Lord Mayor said he was proud to summon those present to consider some mode of marking their love and loyalty for the Sovereign of the British Empire at this time. He had felt it incumbent upon him to acquaint his Majesty with his intention to summon the meeting, and to learn his desire as to the distribution of the contemplated gift. The King had conveyed his wishes through Sir Francis Knollys, who stated that no scheme appealed more deeply to His Majesty than one for augmenting "King Edward VII. London Hospital Fund," established by him when Prince of Wales in 1897. The Lord Mayor announced that subscriptions amounting to £55,000 had been already received, and he hoped by Coronation Day to be able to hand to the Sovereign a sum worthy of the kingdom. On the same day a large meeting was held in Dublin, presided over by Mr. James Murphy, President of the Chamber of Commerce, for the purpose of extending to the King congratulations on his Coronation, and of founding a Coronation Commemoration Fund, "for the benefit of the aged, sick, or disabled certificated female nurses working in Ireland," to be called "The King Edward Seventh Coronation National Fund for Nurses in Ireland."

THE RED CROSS CONFERENCE.

The International Conference of the Red Cross Society at St. Petersburg resolved "in future to combine with their conferences exhibitions of articles used in the care of wounded. Further, a statute was passed with regard to the employment of the fund established by the Dowager Czaritza. It was resolved to use the interest accruing from this fund in the creation of prizes for the best inventions to alleviate the sufferings of wounded or invalid soldiers. It was also decided to give prizes for the best methods of finding and transporting wounded from the battlefield, and for clearing the field of wounded. Every future conference is to decide what special inventions are to be awarded prizes. We hope there will be many competitors.

Medical Matters.

LEPROSY IN THE UNITED STATES.



An American Commission of Surgeons reports that there are two hundred and seventy-eight lepers in the United States. It is not a great number, in a population of seventy millions, but a single case is too much. These authorities declare, however, as the *British Medical Journal* reports, "that the disease is transmitted from one person to another within the United States," and they express a belief that it is "most frequently contracted through inhalation of dust from places inhabited by lepers, such conveyance being most notable in the Gulf States." Perhaps we may conclude that the Commission is not referring to the leprosy which we recognise in Europe, but to the form of Elephantiasis passing under that name, so terribly common in Central America. It is only less dreadful than the real malady, when established, but curable in the early stages. Humanity forbids us to believe, except on the strongest evidence, that real leprosy is infectious or contagious, for the lot of the afflicted would be still more deplorable in that case. But wherever the disease is endemic, the natives have no fear of taking it by contact, and scientific observation confirms this view. It is very unlikely that the United States will prove to be an exception. The specific cause of leprosy—the bacillus lepræ—was discovered in 1874 by Armauer Hansen, and brings the disease into line with tubercle.

A POPULAR MEDICINE.

The partaking of a slice of pineapple after a meal, the *Lancet* assures us, is quite in accordance with physiological indications, since, though it may not be generally known, fresh pineapple juice contains a remarkably active digestive principle similar to pepsin. This is a capital recommendation for the luscious pineapple.

THE SPHYGOMANOMETER.

Professor Scipione Riva-Rocci, of the University of Pavia, has introduced an ingenious new instrument for measuring the pressure of the blood. The sphygomanometer, as it is called, is said to be very sensitive, and of much use in some diseases.

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