

## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The Secretary of State for India has been requested to send thirty-seven medical officers to India in September for the purpose of assisting in wholesale inoculation against bubonic plague in the Punjab. The scheme is likely to cost £60,000.

Mr. Choate, the American Ambassador, will visit Coventry on December 4th, to open a bazaar in aid of the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital.

The electric department of Glasgow Royal Infirmary, instituted about a dozen years ago, and considerably improved in 1896, when Röntgen's discovery led to the founding of a special department for X-ray work, has again been extended. The previous installation was largely the gift of one well-known Glasgow citizen, and the new pavilion just added is due to the generosity of a few ladies and gentlemen in Glasgow and district who have provided the necessary funds.

The new building consists of four large rooms, each well lit, but having special arrangements for darkening as required. The electric supply for lighting and other purposes is from the 250-volt mains of the Corporation. Three complete sets of Finsen's light apparatus for the treatment of lupus and other affections have been provided, and, in addition, modifications of this method have been added in the shape of apparatus for producing the ultra-violet rays. Another feature of the department is a Wimshurst machine, one of the largest in existence, for the production of electricity. This machine was built by Lord Blythwood in his own laboratory, and is a gift from his Lordship to the hospital. The X-ray department has been refurnished with the newest switch-boards, coils, and operating tables. In addition, the best apparatus for localising the presence of foreign substances in the human body have been provided, including a large electric magnet, for the extraction of metallic foreign substances.

At the inauguration ceremony Mr. Hugh Brown, who presided, said they had met to inaugurate formally an installation which they believed to be, if not the very best, at least second to none in this country. They were all very much indebted to Dr. John Macintyre for his work on behalf of this department of the Infirmary. Dr. Macintyre afterwards gave a description and demonstration of the uses of the apparatus.

The new wing of the Infirmary, which has just been opened, will provide the surgical staff with just that accommodation which has been so much needed for a long time past. The event marks the completion of one part of the scheme conceived by the late Ald. Lennard for commemorating the reign of the late Queen Victoria. The other portion that remains to be carried out is the provision of a convalescent home, which is just as urgently required. Everyone admits the good work done at the Infirmary, which by the latest addition its usefulness will without doubt be

increased, because the medical men will thereby be enabled to perform their duties under conditions more conducive to even better results than have already attended their labours.

Dr. Malherbe, of the French Academy of Medicine, has discovered a new anæsthetic which produces complete unconsciousness in ten seconds, reducing the circulation and blood-pressure so as to greatly facilitate operations and to prevent unpleasant after-effects. The process consists simply in applying to the nostrils of the patient a rag on which have been poured two cubic centimetres of chlorure of ethyle. In 700 cases in which the anæsthetic was tried not one showed the cerebral, muscular, or nervous complications which frequently result from chloroform, ether, and other anæsthetics in general use.

Italy's first lady University professor is Dr. Rina Mastio, who has been appointed professor of anatomy at the University of Milan.

In the *National Geographical Magazine*, U.S., Major W. M. Black shows how, through American enterprise and science, Havana, the capital of Cuba, has been transformed from a disease-stricken port into a charming tropical residence. Not only have dirty shanties and sheds been removed, private houses cleaned regardless of protest by the inmates, sewers renovated, and thoroughfares widened, but parks and promenades have been converted from haunts of criminals into pleasure grounds.

## British Medical Association.

The sectional meetings of the British Medical Association held at Owens College, Manchester, last week dealt with many subjects of general as well as of medical interest.

### DANGEROUS TRADES.

A prominent place in this section was accorded to the discussion of the prevalence of lead poisoning in the Potteries. The methods by which the disease is detected at an early stage were described, and it was agreed that progress had been made in diminishing the deaths from this source. At the same time it was recognised that no restrictions will relieve the careless worker from danger. It is gratifying that Dr. King Alcock, of Burslem, showed an increasing disposition on the part of the workers to co-operate with the certifying surgeon.

### THE ARREST OF INSANITY.

The subject of "The treatment and care of persons in the early stages of unsoundness of mind" was introduced by Sir John Sibbald, M.D., who advocated the establishment in hospitals of special wards for the treatment of persons in the early stages of insanity, thus enabling the milder cases to be treated, and perhaps cured, without incurring the stigma attached to asylum treatment. The scheme received some criticism on the ground that mild cases of mental disorder needed abundance of fresh air and rest. Dr Bruce, of Edinburgh, said there was a strong feeling in that city in favour of Sir John Sibbald's scheme.

### MILK AS CHILDREN'S FOOD.

An interesting paper was contributed by Professor T. M. Rotch, Professor of Diseases of Children at Harvard University, dealing with the modification of

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