

the gratification of knowing how useful his contribution had been. They would agree with him that the new operating theatre was an object-lesson in cleanliness. The overwhelming evidence of the incalculable benefits which had resulted to mankind from the use of perfectly clean hands, clean instruments, and clean surroundings in the performance of operations and the dressing of wounds, emphasised the assertion that cleanliness was next to godliness. Dr. Brown proceeded to compare the provision made for the sick and wounded at the present time with that in existence when he entered the profession. The administration of anæsthetics, had then only been adopted for a few years. Although the principal hospitals were then provided with nurses, they were much less efficient attendants than they were now. It was only in 1867 that Lord Lister made it known that the dangers arising in connection with wounds, both those made by the surgeon and those which resulted from injuries, were due to the development in them of minute living organisms, which were constantly floating about in the atmosphere. This discovery led to the adoption of the stringent precautions to which he had alluded. There were at the time he spoke of no ambulance carriages to convey sick and injured persons to the infirmary, and no ambulance men to render first aid. Injured persons had to be carried through the streets, shoulder high, on shutters or doors, but now a veritable transformation had been effected.

#### THE OUT-PATIENT DEPARTMENT.

Mr. Park, on behalf of the Board of Management, then requested Lord Derby to lay the foundation-stone of the new out-patient department, which was suitably inscribed in commemoration of the event. This ceremony having been duly performed with a silver trowel and ebony mallet, the proceedings closed with cheers for the Mayor and Mayoress.

### The Sanitary Congress.

The nineteenth Congress of the Sanitary Institute was opened at Manchester on Tuesday, Earl Egerton of Tatton presiding. Amongst the authorities throughout the kingdom (over 300) which were represented we note that Major R. H. Firth represented the War Office, and Mr. C. Reid the Board of Education. The Republic of France sent Professor Edmund Nocard, of the Academy of Medicine, and Mons. A. J. Martin, Inspector-General of Purification Works of France. Lord Egerton in his inaugural address advocated the introduction of physical exercises in elementary schools, and further said that if Tommy Atkins had been taught at school that by boiling water all noxious organisms in it were destroyed, and the commissariat had provided facilities for boiling water we should possibly not have had more deaths from enteric fever than from the enemy's bullets in the recent war.

### Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The recently-formed Army Medical Staff College has commenced its first session. Lieut.-Colonel H. E. R. James, commandant of the Depot and Training School of the Royal Army Medical Corps at Aldershot, who has been selected for commandant and director of studies in the new college, and the officers undergoing instruction, are accommodated at the Hôtel Belgravia, Victoria Street, by War Office arrangement. All the work of the college will be conducted at the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal College of Surgeons.

A board of officers appointed to revise the uniform of the army has changed the insignia of the Army Medical Department and the Hospital Corps from the cross to the caduceus. This device is appropriate for the medical service of the army; the rod signifying power, the serpents healing, and the wings diligence and celerity. It has the further advantage that it is used as the insignia of almost every foreign army, whereas the cross is used by various relief organisations. The colour of the uniform of the Army Medical Corps is to be changed from green to magenta.

A dinner, at which a presentation will be made, will be given at the Imperial Restaurant, Regent Street, W., on Tuesday, September 30th, to Mr. Alfred Willett by his former house surgeons, on the occasion of his retiring from the post of surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

The winter session of the Charing Cross Hospital Medical School will be opened on October 1st by the delivery of the fourth biennial Huxley lecture on "Recent Advances in Science, and their bearing on Medicine and Surgery," by Prof. W. H. Welch, M.D., of the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore.

Professor Dewar, the President of the British Association, which is this week visiting Belfast, gave the opening address of the session on Wednesday.

The late Mr. Wilfred Hans Loder, J.P., D.L., has bequeathed £1,000 to the Cheyne Hospital for Children, Chelsea, for the endowment of a "Winfred" cot, and £500 to the Sussex County Hospital.

Terrible accounts are given of the ravages of the cholera epidemic in Manchuria. In the town of Charbin a veritable panic exists. Tradespeople are abandoning their shops, and the officials of the Manchuria railway are all sending in their resignations and getting away as quickly as possible. The people are dying like flies, and nothing is to be seen in the town but coffins and hastily-erected cholera hospitals.

The news from the West Indies is disquieting, and to add to the sufferings entailed by the recent eruptions an epidemic of enteric fever has broken out at Fort de France.

The Punjaub Government has submitted a comprehensive project to the Government of India and the Secretary of State for sanction in order that it may

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