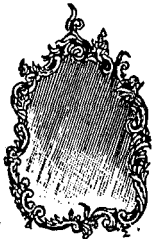


Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The King during his recent visit to Gibraltar visited the new Military Hospital there, and inspected the wards.

The new Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, is now approaching completion, and will be ready to be opened next summer. It is hoped that the King and Queen may be present at the opening ceremony.

The military station hospital in Rochester Row has been condemned as insanitary, dilapidated, and unfit for the reception and treatment of the sick. It will be vacated at once, and pending the completion of the new hospital at Millbank, Westminster, all cases of sickness from the London garrison will be sent to the Herbert Hospital at Woolwich.

The Treasurer of Guy's Hospital has received £1,000 from "G. R." (in memoriam M. L. R.) for the purpose of endowing a bed in a female ward.

The fever returns issued by the Metropolitan Asylums Board on Saturday showed that there were 2,626 patients remaining under treatment in the various institutions under the control of the Board. These figures were made up of 1,169 scarlet fever cases, 864 diphtheria cases, 10 cases of typhus, and 83 cases of enteric fever. The whole shows a considerable falling off in the number of cases notified and under treatment in the corresponding period of last year.

The income of the Hospital Saturday Fund for the past financial year was £22,964, an increase of £1,417 on the total in 1901.

London University has recently authorised a course of study in the Humanities, which is to last for three or four years, and to be followed by evening students. The teaching is aimed to present a comprehensive view of the forces moulding nations and communities. The object of this policy is to commend to workmen, teachers, and other busy people the importance of a study very necessary in a nation called to govern itself and to be part of an Empire.

Dr. Waldo, the Southwark coroner, who recently held three inquests on children whose deaths were attributed to suffocation by over-lying, pointed out that in Germany it is a punishable offence for parents to sleep with a baby. He added that nearly every medical man was in favour of the use of cots for young babies, and in future he should not grant fees to any parents attending inquests on their suffocated children. The father of one of the children protested against this view on the ground that a mother should not be compelled to keep getting out of bed in all weathers to soothe a fretful child, chancing all sorts of colds and chills. It was unnatural to part a mother and child in this way, and all the doctors would never convince him to the contrary.

The question is not so simple as it seems. In the houses of the middle classes there can be no question that it is best to use cots for infants, but in cold cottages and tenements a newly-born infant in a separate cot might easily freeze to death on a winter's night, and the alternative of providing it with a hot-water-bottle would, in untrained hands, probably result in the tender skin of the infant being burnt and scalded.

With a view to explaining in the clearest possible way the indications of tuberculosis, both in carcasses and living animals, the veterinary inspector to the Corporation of London has drawn up a circular for the use of persons dealing in meat.

The construction of the Birmingham Crematorium at Perry Barr is almost completed. It is hoped that Sir Henry Thompson, President of the Cremation Society, will perform the opening ceremony in about a month's time. The crematorium is a large, towered, brick building of substantial proportions and artistic design. The chapel is capable of accommodating 200 people. The sides are occupied by arched recesses for the reception of urns and memorial tablets.

Dr. Eaton has applied to the Grantham Board of Guardians to grant him a higher salary for his services as medical officer to the workhouse. He says he is at present receiving 2s. 2d. a day, which he declares equals a halfpenny per patient per day, and this amount includes medicines, of which he has furnished a good supply.

It is asserted that alcoholism in France is steadily increasing, and that the use of absinthe and other deleterious liquors is rapidly undermining the French constitution, and is one of the main factors in the decrease of the population in that country. The enormous increase in France of late years of pulmonary tuberculosis and other tuberculous diseases is said to be due to the abuse of absinthe, and the present Cabinet is credited with the resolve to introduce stringent legislation against its sale.

The insurance of the lives of infants has proved to be a fruitful source of crime, and no French companies issue policies entitling the policy holder to pecuniary payment in the event of a child's death. It is therefore not surprising that various members of the French Chamber of Deputies have recently laid a Bill before that Assembly which is directed against certain English, American, and Belgian life insurance companies which are doing business in France. The Bill sets forth that all insurances on children under seven entitling the holder to pecuniary payment in the event of a child's death are contrary to the public interest, and are forbidden within the territory of the French Republic and in any of its colonies.

A meeting called by the International League of Barbers for the purpose of arousing public interest in the adoption of a Bill by the Pennsylvania Legislature, providing for better sanitary conditions in barbers' shops, was recently held in Philadelphia. The proposed law regulates the practice of barbering, provides for the registration and licensing of barbers, and calls for the better education of those engaged in the work. It also provides for the appointment of a

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