

open countenance. As the pilot, he must live up to the highest hopes of his staunchest supporter, albeit he may know that the butcher and the baker will have to wait for payment long overdue. With vigour and with polish he must let his plodding clerks see that any eccentricities of theirs in deportment, grammar, spelling, or pronunciation are eccentricities that must cease immediately.

The average commercial traveller must not gain his presence, and when a person who has something to sell does by accident secure an interview with him his perfect self-possession should be quite enough to end the interview speedily. No ideal hospital secretary should find it necessary to stoop to vehement obstruction, and the smallest loss of temper would be fatal to his best interests. If a really offensive creature should cross his track a little appropriate banter might be indulged in, but, as for any departure from grace and dignity, the mere thought of it should be beyond possibility. As a conqueror born, defeat would kill him. Loss of temper and defeat so often go together, as latter-day newspaper controversies amply testify.

The fascination of lay hospital work is accounted for by its unknown quantity. It is as rough and tumble an experience, in its way, as is the work of a cattle man aboard a vessel. One moment the secretary is in the Board Room smoothly explaining to a countess that the hospital is in sore need of financial help, and, as if by magic, the lady is suddenly torn from him by her powdered flunkey, who reminds her of another urgent appointment, and he finds himself with an architect upon a slippery roof in a high wind listening to a lesson on ward ventilation. A little later and he is down in the ice chamber presiding at an argument between a fishmonger and the housekeeper. Then he is back at his desk looking for some figures which an indignant life-governor declares should have appeared in the official Report for the year before last. Yet he is calm, and the interruption of the telephone bell will not raise so much as a tired smile. It is his joy to participate in many matters, as his almost fatherly manners will prove to all who have business with him in his working hours.

Just as successful surgery is made possible by means of sterilised instruments in practised hands in favourable surroundings, so is the ideal secretary possible by means of the mystery and melancholy and the censorial superiority that attend his evenings at home or with friends. Were he to be genial always his brain would go; a man who is always genial is, as a matter of common experience, unfitted for any position requiring judgment and tact. Even Job, had he lived to wear modern boots, would assuredly have made jerky utterance when a comparatively new lace gave out unexpectedly.

The question now is, is there a truly ideal hospital secretary in existence?

CHARLES CUTTING.

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



Prince Christian, Lord Esher, and the Mayor of Windsor have been constituted trustees of the site and new hospital at Windsor, to be known as the Windsor Royal Dispensary and Infirmary. A fund for this object was started a few months since by the mayor, as the present building is no longer equal to the requirements. The King has shown his interest in the scheme by donations of 400 guineas from the Windsor State Apartments Fund, and 100 guineas from the Privy Purse. Other members of the Royal Family have also given donations. A site of about 4½ acres has been secured at a cost of £2,850, and there is at present a balance in hand of £500.

The Queen has sent two large boxes of sweets for the patients in the Alexandra Hospital for Children with Hip Disease, Queen Square, Bloomsbury, of which her Majesty is patron.

Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, last week visited informally the West London Hospital, Hammersmith, where she was received by members of the medical staff, the Matron, Miss Nevile, and the Secretary Superintendent. Her Royal Highness, who is President of the Ladies' Association of the Hospital, expressed much pleasure at what she had seen.

It has been decided that the Professors of Medicine and Surgery in the Royal Army Medical College, London, shall act as consultants to the Queen Alexandra Military Hospital, Millbank.

The excavations on the former site of Christ's Hospital, adjoining St. Bartholomew's Hospital, which have recently been made for the foundations of the new buildings of the hospital, have revealed immediately below the surface, and for a depth of many feet, the bones of what are computed to be some 400 human beings. Some of the skeletons are complete, amongst them being those of children. It is believed that the spot is the site of an old plague pit, and that the remains are probably those of victims of the plague of 1603. They have now been reinterred at Ilford Cemetery.

A deputation consisting of Mr. Burt, Sir John Gorst, Mr. Claude Hay, Mr. Herbert Samuel, Dr. Hutchinson, Dr. Thompson, and others waited on Mr. Gerald Balfour last week and laid before him various facts and figures concerning the alarming rate of infant mortality in certain large towns. The President of the Local Government Board promised to try and ascertain from the medical officers of health the condition of life in the districts where infant mortality is highest with a view of seeing whether any strengthening of the Public Health Acts is necessary.

Dr. Osler, the Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford, has been appointed active consulting physician to the Radcliffe Infirmary, and Dr. Ernest Mallam honorary physician in the room of Professor Ritchie, resigned. At the recent quarterly Court of Governors, Mr. Gamlen said as that was the first Court of Governors

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