

just touching the fringe of a salary with which it might be possible to do so much that would be congenial and that had not hitherto been expedient. We all pictured ourselves in the possession of what we had fondly hoped for, for years and years. In imagination I already had a gun and a spaniel.

Suddenly there was a tap at the door and a messenger called out the name belonging to one of us. That one went away and at the end of two minutes he returned to us with drawn white lips and twitching fingers. He could scarcely say "good-bye" to us as he took up his new silk hat and his best overcoat. He stalked headlong out into the wet streets of a strange town, a trembling broken-spirited man.

When I answered my call I walked as bravely as I could, but I felt a blast of failure rush against my face as I once more entered the presence of the committee. I only remember that the chairman with exasperating eloquence expressed his sorrow for my defeat. And yet I do recollect one other circumstance, I caught the sympathetic eye of one friendly member of the committee, who saw in my sad heart and who said to me without moving his lips: "Never mind, I voted for *you* and I still think the others are making a mistake."

I thank my stars that I have some little sense of humour, and kind associates who know and who understand. Heaven help the other unsuccessful candidates who are not placed as I am; I have a genial chief and a generous chairman, who do not bustle me off because I occasionally grow restless and ambitious. And, besides, I still intend to go on working hard in my humble way. C. C.

### Total Abstinence Nurses' League.

By the kindness of Mrs. Henry Thorne and the Committee of the South Norwood Branch of the Women's Total Abstinence Union, a Garden Meeting was held by invitation of Miss Tydeman, Brunswick House, Woodside Green, on Thursday, July 12th. F. R. Docking, Esq., of Croydon presided. Before opening the meeting he made a touching reference to the death of the late Sir Wilfrid Lawson. The address was given by Miss M. E. Docwra, Kelvedon, who explained the constitution and work of the Nurses' League, and gave valuable facts in relation to the Temperance Question from the medical and national point of view. Miss Boyd invited the nurses who were present to join the Nurses' League. On the motion of Mrs. Norkus, seconded by Miss Hooker, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the speakers, hostess and chairman. Five nurses joined the League.

### Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The King has contributed £820 from the State Apartments Fund towards the sum required for the building and equipment of the King Edward VII Hospital for Windsor and Eton.

By will the African millionaire, Mr. Alfred Beit, has left amongst other munificent legacies £20,000 to the King's Hospital Fund, £20,000 to Guy's Hospital, and £25,000 to the Institute of Medical Sciences Fund (London University). The handsome sum left to Guy's will be very welcome, as it is in need of many thousands to pay for all the necessary structural alterations carried out of late years.

The hospitals on the line of the motor 'bus routes are much affected by the increased noise and vibration. There is a stopping place opposite St. George's Hospital, and in an institution where quietude is essential, the clangour without is very objectionable. The authorities at Charing Cross Hospital also complain bitterly of the number of motor 'buses which pass down King William Street, and have communicated with the police on the subject.

A new out-patients' department for the London Temperance Hospital is now being erected on a site secured by the Committee of Management adjoining the institution in the Hampstead Road. An appeal is made on behalf of the building fund.

The year 1905-6 has been a record one for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, the society having helped a larger number of children than it ever helped before in a single year, 108,225 in all being assisted.

During the year 38,705 cases were discovered and reported, 37,213 being found to justify investigation. Prosecutions were undertaken in 2,199 extreme cases, the others yielding to warning, and convictions were obtained in all but seventy.

With regard to the nature of the cases, 32,903 come under the head of neglect and starvation, while ill-treatment and assault account for 3,409.

And this is Christian England! Nay—rather let us call it the land of disfranchised mothers.

At a meeting at the Hotel Cecil, Lord Kilmorey said the Charing Cross Hospital urgently needed funds. The £12,500 collection in May was only half of what was required to clear the institution of debt, over and above the mortgage of £85,000. The other half must be collected before Christmas. He outlined a scheme for the formation of a local Maintenance Committee, everyone connected with the district being asked to become a member. The scheme was heartily approved, and will be carried into effect.

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