

## Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The chief item on the programme of the assembled International Sleeping Sickness Commission is a discussion of a draft general Act dealing with measures for combatting the disease, which has been drawn up by the British Government. Considerable importance is attached to the fact that on this occasion, unlike the last, the leading delegate of each country represented will have full powers to sign the Act on behalf of his Government. The countries represented will be Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal, and the Congo Free State. The conference is expected to last a week.

The British delegates are Lord Fitzmaurice, Sir Walter Foster, M.P., Mr. A. Waldron Clarke, Mr. H. J. Read, C.M.G., Sir Patrick Manson, Dr. J. Rose Bradford, F.R.S., Professor Sir Rubert Boyce, F.R.S., and Colonel D. Bruce, C.B., R.A.M.C., F.R.S. The Lord Mayor will entertain the president and delegates at luncheon at the Mansion House on Monday, the 16th inst.

The Earl of Arran has been elected chairman of the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital, in succession to the late Sir Charles A. Turner.

The President of the Local Government Board has authorised for the current year the following researches, amongst others, under the grant voted by Parliament in aid of scientific investigations concerning the causes and processes of diseases:—  
1. Further studies by Dr. Andrevés and Dr. Horder as to methods of inhibiting in the animal body the activities of infection by certain cocci. 2. A study of the various forms of pneumonia, especially in children, by Mr. Foulerton, F.R.C.S.; 3. A study of acid-fast bacilli in butter, by Dr. Nabarro.

The trustees of the Annie Zunz Trust have promised a contribution of £5,000 towards the rebuilding of the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital in Great Portland Street.

St. Peter's Hospital, Covent Garden, W.C., has received £1,000 to endow a bed to be called "The Jacob and Rachel Valentine Bed."

The Committee of the Stockport Infirmary, in their annual report, express their satisfaction at the way in which the Nursing Staff, under the direction of the Matron, Miss A. M. de Ville, have performed their duties. They also return their sincere thanks for the handsome sum of £1,171 contributed by the workpeople of the town, and hope that during the present year the collection in mills and workshops may become still more general.

Excellent enlargements of private photographs are being made by the proprietors of Oxo for customers collecting 21s. worth of Oxo coupons. These enlargements measure 23 in. by 19 in. when mounted, and are executed in first class style. From either a technical or artistic point of view they are quite equal to those productions for which one usually pays a guinea. Anyone's photograph can be enlarged provided, of course, it is not copyrighted, and it need hardly be said the enlargements are quite free from advertising matter.

### "THE CAUSE OF THE CHILDREN."

The conscience of the nation has been aroused to the needs of the child, the outcome of which has been the Children's Bill, recently introduced into Parliament. The Bill has the cordial support of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, which has long laboured in the cause of suffering childhood. The extent and magnitude of the Society's work in safeguarding the lives of children throughout the land, and rescuing them from systematic cruelty, starvation, and neglect, is seldom realised. The records for the past month show that no less than 3,888 cases were dealt with, affecting the lives of 11,426 children. It is sad to note that 86 of these cases ended in death. It is also a significant fact that 3,022 children were known to be insured for a total of £15,607.

The aim of the Society is "that every child in the land shall live an endurable life." Great as its efforts have been in this direction, there is room for considerable extension. There are districts yet untouched, where children suffer, and where, if funds permitted, inspectors would be placed without delay. Every mother of happy children should subscribe according to her means in support of this society.

### FLOGGING IN PRISONS.

Mr. Joseph Collinson, Hon. Secretary of the Humanitarian League (Prisons Department) has addressed a petition on behalf of his Committee to Mr. Herbert Gladstone, Secretary of State for the Home Department, calling attention to the large amount of flogging which still exists in the local and convict prisons of England and Wales for breaches of discipline, which they believe to be as unnecessary as it is cruel. Reference is made to the prisons, not only in our self-governing colonies and in many countries (viz., France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Denmark, the States of America), but in Scotland and Ireland, in which discipline is successfully maintained without flogging. Attention is called to the fact that the floggings inflicted in pursuance of the sentences of visiting justices, after a trial in which the public has no security that the accused had been afforded proper facilities for defence, are much more numerous, and also more severe, than those inflicted under sentences passed on desperate criminals after a trial in open court. Mr. Collinson reminds the Home Secretary that besides refusing to confirm sentences of flogging for prison offences he possesses the power of superseding them, and that if he cares to do so he can practically abolish the present system of maintaining discipline in civil prisons.

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