

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

The programme of the Conference on Infantile Mortality, which is to be held in the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on the 24th and 25th inst., includes subjects for discussion of considerable importance and interest. Mr. John Burns will deliver his presidential address at nine o'clock on the evening of the 23rd, so as to allow more time for the business of the conference on the two succeeding days.

At the annual meeting of the Governors of the Great Northern Central Hospital it was announced that the Committee had decided to provide a children's ward in the hospital.

The second International Sleeping Sickness Conference has terminated without being able to agree on the draft convention before it.

The National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic, Queen Square, Bloomsbury, has received a special grant of £500 from the Goldsmiths' Company.

Poor Law officers in London decided at a recent meeting to ask the President of the Local Government Board to receive a deputation with a view to securing an alteration in the regulations dealing with their pensions, superannuation funds, and hours of labour.

The Medical Officer of Health of the London County Council was recently instructed by the Public Health Committee to investigate the possible spread of infection by flies. Dr. Hamer states that the facts at present ascertained as to the influence of flies in spreading disease, under conditions obtaining in England, are not such as to enable any positive opinion to be expressed, but that the contamination of articles of food and the irritation and annoyance and even loss of sleep caused to residents in the neighbourhoods in which observations were made, constituted injurious influences of a most serious character.

The Board of the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary have received an offer from Mr. A. Leslie Wright, J.P., of Butterley Hall, a member of the Board, to build and equip wards for children, as a memorial to his late wife, at a cost of between £7,000 and £8,000.

The Guardians of the parish of Aston, near Birmingham have decided to build a new infirmary. It is estimated that the cost of the scheme will be at least £70,000.

Mr. Stanley Puckle and Miss Puckle have again given £1,000 for the endowment of a cot in the Tunbridge Wells General Hospital, making their total gifts to the institution £5,000 within three years.

Our Foreign Letter.

WORK IN A MISSION HOSPITAL, NEYOOR, INDIA.



Dear Editor,

You say in your last letter, "Give me an outline of one of your days, so that I may have a picture in my mind's

eye of what work in a Mission Hospital is like, as compared with our work in home hospitals." The few photographs which I enclose will show up the contrast in buildings, wards, nurses, etc., much better than any word pictures of mine could.* You will see that while the operation room is fairly well equipped, and up-to-date, the wards differ much from home wards. We find it necessary to have but a minimum of furniture and fittings, as not only the patient, but the whole family (anywhere from one to a dozen or more according to their caste and standing in their community) and all their household goods and chattels, including most objectionable live stock, come and take up their abode with the patient. Obviously, then, the less there is for this live stock to cling to the better, hence the bareness of the wards. The beds are just iron frames with two iron rods at the foot, the head being hooked on to the wall (this is to keep the patients, or rather their friends, from running two or three together at night for the use of the family), and to form the equivalent of a wire-woven mattress they are corded across with rope. A grass mat and rug are placed over this. A small pillow with red turkey twill pillow case, and a quilt of the same material make the sum total of the bed-clothing. Once a week these beds and mats are taken out and dipped in a big cauldron of boiling water, and left in the sun for two hours. The patients meanwhile lie on the rug on the floor. This we find is the only reliable method of keeping down the above mentioned live stock. Our central hospital staff (we have eight branch hospitals, and six dispensaries) at present consists of one European doctor, myself, one senior dresser, three junior dressers, two trained nurses, two probationers (we require at least six more, but cannot get suitable women willing to take up the work), three women servants, and five men-servants. Nurses and servants begin work at 6.30 a.m., junior dressers start at 7. My bungalow is about four minutes' run on my bicycle from the hospital. I get down about 7 o'clock, and take a walk round the wards and compound. If it is operating day I see that operation room, instruments, etc., are ready. At 7.30 doctor and staff assemble in my office for "family

* These photographs are most interesting. As we always find humans more interesting than inanimate things we reproduce a picture of a nurse.—Ed.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)