

### Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

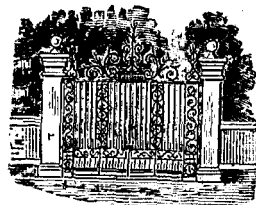
The King and Queen have again consented to bestow their patronage upon the National Conference on Infantile Mortality, which taken place in the Westminster City Hall, London, on Tuesday and Wednesday, 24th and 25th March. Most of the public health authorities throughout the country are sending delegates to the conference, and a number of private associations which are specially interested in the preservation of young lives will also be represented. The amount of interest evoked by the subject was proved by the great demand which there was for copies of the report of the last conference, over 3,000 being circulated, and in view of the coming conference there has been a fresh inquiry for the report, to meet which it is being reprinted. The conference is open not only to associations but to individuals. Mr. John J. McIntyre, of the Town Clerk's Department, City Chambers, Glasgow, is the secretary.

Colonel David Bruce, by whom, when surgeon-major in the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1887, the Micro-coccus Melitensis, or bacillus of what is known as Malta or Mediterranean fever, was discovered, spoke recently at the Royal Institution, in Albemarle Street, on the extinction of the disease, of which there are three types: the malignant, the undulatory or remittent, and the intermittent. He traced the various steps in the investigation of the disease, and recalled how, in 1904, the Government induced the Royal Society to make a thorough investigation, which lasted three years. If this research, which had been followed by the most valuable results, had been undertaken—as it ought to have been undertaken—twenty years ago, at least 15,000 soldiers and sailors might have been saved from the disease.

The Medical Officer of Health of Huddersfield last week issued a report and chart showing the percentage of infant mortality in the borough from 1877 to the end of last year. In 1877 the deaths were 153 per thousand of births registered. The highest rate was in 1891, when it was 185, and the lowest last year, when it was 97. During the three years in which special work for the protection of infant life had been in progress, by the effort of Alderman Broadbent, there had been a reduction of 18 per cent. on the previous ten years' rate. This was very remarkable when it was considered that 25 per cent. of the female population of child-bearing ages worked in textile factories.

Examinations in hygiene have been organised by the Incorporated Institute of Hygiene of London, and they will be held at the leading centres throughout England, Scotland, and Ireland. They will include not only the necessary examination showing general proficiency in hygiene, but the following additional honours subjects: The hygiene of the home, the hygiene of motherhood, the feeding and rearing of children, food and cooking, home nursing and first aid, school hygiene, and physical training.

### Outside the Gates. WOMEN.



Woman's natural ability as a housekeeper is undisputed, but now-a-days in all the departments of life more than natural aptitude is needed. It is regarded mainly as a foundation on which to build, training being necessary in order to develop it. We see this in music, in art, in nursing, in all the professions, and what is true of these is true of Domestic Economy also. It is, therefore, with great pleasure that we learn that facilities are now to be afforded in this country to those who desire to obtain an insight into the sciences on which the domestic arts are based, and that the Women's Department of King's College will next October offer a carefully considered course of training, of university status, to women students in Household Economics. In every department of life the welfare of the State demands the co-operation of women, whether on the boards of hospital and asylums as poor law guardians, as municipal authorities, as safeguarding the interests of the children of the State, in all these directions women's work is urgently necessary. But to perform this work most efficiently they need a thorough education, and these the new course at King's College Hospital will provide, for the scheme is to be analogous to the courses of special or professional training already provided for men and women who connect themselves with the curricula of the Universities.

A programme giving a general classification of exhibits in the Women's Section of the Franco-British Exhibition, to be opened at Shepherd's Bush, London, this year, has been issued. With two exceptions, the Executive Committee is entirely composed of ladies of title, and no woman who has acquired creative fame as a worker is included amongst them. Amongst the sections we notice that of "Nursing," and one ventures to ask who on the Committee knows anything of this skilled professional work. The sooner expert, practical workers are added to this Committee the better—if the responsibility it has assumed is to be taken in earnest.

In contrast to this social and necessarily incomplete Committee, we find where men's work is concerned it is treated seriously, the chairman of every group committee being an expert of the highest reputation. Science is under the direction of Sir Norman Lockyer, K.C.B., F.R.S., LL.D.; Fine Arts, under that of the President of the Royal Academy, and so on. It is high time that professional and industrial women workers demanded that the highly technical skill by which they earn their living, and contribute so largely to the nation's wealth and well being, should be given serious consideration, and not treated with the contempt accorded it under the Women's Section of the Franco-British Exhibition of 1908.

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