

bitter, lady). "You take some with me, and put it in warraker cigarra" (cigar paper). As I often had a touch of malaria, I very gladly took my 2 grs. of quinine with Mohammed. To soften and decrease the size of the spleen, massage was found most useful. The ointment used was the red iodide of mercury. On very fine days Mohammed sat on the balcony for his massage, the abdomen exposed to the hot rays of the sun during the treatment, which was given for 15 minutes every morning; when the patient was a little stronger I gave also gentle skakning over the spleen for five minutes, and general massage on back and limbs twice every day for 20 minutes. For this olive oil was used. The boy improved enormously; he was not only a charming patient, but what is termed a "good case." It was a pleasure to watch him getting better, especially to see his "figure" so much improved. One day after I had finished the massage of the spleen he took my hand and kissed it, and said, "The Lord bless you, lady; there is healing in your hands"; then he looked me up and down, adding, "Of course, *you* haven't got a spleen; have you never had fever, or are English ladies made without spleens?" At this all the patients laughed very much, and I still more, but little Mohammed's face was very grave. "I cannot understand," he said, "at any rate you must have a very small one, for you can run about easily, and you don't get out of breath like I used to; to-night when you go to church, Sister, you just ask the Lord Jesus to make my stomach as small as yours, and I will ask Him too, so that we are both praying at the same time." Poor little Mohammed! How comical he looked! his head perched on one side, and his two little brown hands patting his "tummy" to emphasise his meaning. He certainly wanted a very small spleen. I am 5 ft. 6 ins. and at the time weighed only 7 stones. There was no visible sign of my having a spleen at all. After a general "Good-night" and "Ullah yacoon ma-coom" (God be with you all), I left my ward and went to church. The service that evening was specially for nurses, and I am sure the heart of each one went up to "Our Father in Heaven" in earnest prayer for all the sick and suffering in the Hospital; the little child was praying, too, to that greatest of all Physicians, and soon his petition was granted, and he went home to his kind old granny with a "tummy" as small as anyone in perfect health could desire.

SISTER MARIE.

### Cancer Treated with Radium.

The use of radium as a specific for cancer has been discussed at a meeting of the Anti-Cancer League at the Faculty of Medicine at Paris.

Two experts, Dr. Wickham and Dr. Degrais, said that during the three and a-half years they had used radium for cancer they had had only six failures out of sixty-two cases, and a number of persons present, who had suffered with cancer, and been treated by radium, were apparently cured.

Such results are certainly encouraging.

### Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

The King has been pleased to appoint Harold Robert Dacre Spitta, Esq., M.D., B.S., D.P.H., Cambridge, to be Bacteriologist to His Majesty's Household.

The Windsor Castle State Apartments Fund brings in a very handsome sum annually, and the King has sent donations to many local charities, such as the Slough Nursing Fund, the Royal Victoria Cottage Nursing Home, Ascot, the British Orphan Asylum, and the Windsor Royal Infirmary.

One of the most disheartening features of the year which has just drawn to a close is the alarming growth of pauperism in London. This Christmas over 130,000 persons—or at the rate of 27.2 per thousand of the population of the Metropolis—are in receipt of poor relief. The number is greater than in any year since 1870, and represents an addition of over 27,000 to the number of paupers recorded at the beginning of the present century.

The following table, which shows the total number of paupers in the various years since 1900, and the ratio per thousand of the population, reveals the saddening growth of pauperism in London:—

Year.	Indoor.	Outdoor.	Total.	Ratio per 1,000
1900 ...	66,152 ...	36,939 ...	103,091 ...	22.8
1901 ...	68,297 ...	39,471 ...	107,768 ...	23.7
1902 ...	71,108 ...	42,244 ...	113,352 ...	24.8
1903 ...	73,572 ...	40,701 ...	114,273 ...	24.7
1904 ...	77,021 ...	50,602 ...	127,623 ...	27.4
1905 ...	77,622 ...	49,450 ...	127,072 ...	27.2
1906 ...	78,603 ...	44,532 ...	123,135 ...	26.1
1907 ...	79,681 ...	46,384 ...	126,065 ...	26.5
1908 ...	81,506 ...	49,037 ...	130,543 ...	27.2

It is not expected, says the Exchange Telegraph Company, that the Report of the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws will be ready for presentation to the Home Office until after the reassembling of Parliament in February next. It is anticipated that, in addition to that of the Chairman, Lord George Hamilton, there will be two other reports, one by Mr. C. S. Loch, and the other by Mrs. Sidney Webb.

Some arrangements are already being made for the celebration this year of the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. The Lord Mayor, who is a member of the Society's Executive Committee, proposes to hold and preside over a public meeting at the Mansion House on May 24th, 1909, which will be addressed by the Lord Chief Justice and Mr. Herbert Samuel, M.P. On the night of May 25th the Lady Mayoress proposes to give a ball at the Mansion House in aid of the Society's funds.

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