

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

The Departmental Committee, consisting of Sir Kenelm Edward Digby, the Earl of Stamford, and Sir William Collins, M.P., who were appointed by the Home Secretary to inquire as to the ambulance service in the Metropolis, and what improvements were necessary and desirable, have reported that it has been abundantly shown that the present system is gravely defective, and results in much preventable detriment and suffering by reason of the transport by unsuitable means, of persons who have been injured or taken ill in the streets or in other public places. The Committee recommend transport by means of a well-constructed and properly-fitted rapid ambulance, horsed or motor. The report recommends that the Metropolitan Asylums Board should be authorised by Act of Parliament to apply their funds to the establishment of a service of non-infectious ambulances for the transport of street cases, to enter into agreements, and generally to co-operate with the Metropolitan Police. Sir William Collins, however, considers that the duty of maintaining an ambulance service should be entrusted to the London County Council, who have sought powers and evolved a scheme for the purpose, which the M.A.B. have not.

A very satisfactory report of the Hospital Saturday fund was presented at its Annual Meeting. Receipts from workshops and business houses amounted to £29,830, as compared with £27,140 in 1907. The Local Committees collected £4,027, as against £3,529 in the previous year. The amount distributed to the 209 participating hospitals and dispensaries, etc., was £27,332, being £2,895 above that awarded in 1907. The 22 beds endowed at four sanatoria for consumptives proved inadequate to meet the demands made by subscribers to the Fund, the deficiency being specially marked in the accommodation for women. The Lord Mayor of London was unanimously elected President.

An inquest was held at the London Hospital last week into the circumstances attending the death of Dr. Angus Bewley Wilson, a House Surgeon at the Hospital, under strange circumstances. A gag was being introduced into the mouth of a woman suffering from laudanum poisoning, in order that the stomach pump might be used, when she bit the doctor's thumb, and blood poisoning, following the injury, eventually caused his death.

Princess Alexander of Teck opened on Saturday a new out-door department of the Royal Boscombe and West Hants Hospital at Bournemouth, her Royal Highness the Duchess of Albany being prevented from fulfilling her engagement in that respect. She received an address of welcome from the Mayor and Corporation, and inspected the building after the opening ceremony, also unveiling a tablet in memory of Sir Frederick Wills, President of the Hospital from 1901 to 1909, and a generous giver to its funds.

THE CHILDREN'S CHARTER.

The Children's Act has now come into operation, and its sponsor, Mr. Herbert Samuel, M.P., speaking at a public meeting, said that under the Act the power of the State was substituted for the activity of the parent only where the family organisation was not doing its work on account of the bad character or neglect of the parent. It was one of the essential duties of the community to breed and train a good stock for the future of their race. That was the first idea underlying the Children's Act. The second was that the State could rely to the uttermost on the co-operation of voluntary workers with officials.

PLUMBERS BEFORE NURSES.

Plumbers have now to pass a central examination, after which they are nominated to the General Council for registration under the National Registration of Plumbers, and admitted to the Register. Recently, at King's College, about twenty master and operative plumbers attended for practical and theoretical examination. The practical examination consisted of tests in lead bossing, also bonding and wiping large and small joints, as required for good-class domestic sanitary plumbing. In the theoretical examination questions were put to the candidates dealing with subjects of domestic sanitation generally, ventilation, and the connection of water services to domestic dwellings and public institutions. How much ill-health, and how many lives, will be saved in the future by a guarantee of efficiency being enforced amongst plumbers it is impossible to forecast. Anyway, in the past their inefficiency has resulted in many deaths.

SCHOOL GERMS—IMPROVED ATTENDANCE AFTER DISINFECTION.

An interesting experiment in school hygiene has been completed by Mr. W. H. Marsh, Staff Science Instructor of the Buckinghamshire County Council.

With a view to the prevention of infectious disease the floors of 25 schools have been sprinkled nightly during the past twelve months with a solution of Cyllin, and the attendance in these schools compared with that of the schools in which the process was omitted.

Mr. Marsh reports an improved attendance in the disinfected schools sufficient to earn additional grants amounting to over £50, the entire cost of disinfection for the twelve months being under £30.

Setting aside financial consideration, the improvement in health in the children in the disinfected schools must be remarkable.

WINCARNIS IN HANDY FLASKS.

Many nurses will be glad to know that for the convenience of the travelling public "Wincarnis" is put up in handy 1s. flasks, and sold by hotels, licensed houses, and railway station refreshment rooms. The flasks have specially been designed to fit the pocket easily. Wincarnis is both food and drink, and is appreciated by those who are apt to tire on a journey as being both refreshing and sustaining.

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