

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

The King has been pleased to approve of the admission of officers of the Territorial Forces to His Majesty's Convalescent Home for Officers at Osborne.

The Christmas Entertainment at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C., for the resident staff, and for which tickets are always in great demand, was this year held on Tuesday and Wednesday this week, and, as usual, there was a large gathering. The Hospital Musical Society were much applauded for the way in which they rendered their part of the programme, and "Dandy Dick," performed by the members of the St. Bartholomew's Hospital Amateur Dramatic Club, with great spirit, and produced under the direction of Mr. R. C. Elmslie, caused much merriment to an appreciative audience.

The "At Home" given at Charing Cross Hospital by the Nursing and Resident Staff, in conjunction with the Annual Concert, on Tuesday last, in the Great Hall of the hospital, was a most enjoyable function, and the programme rendered with distinction. Many ladies and gentlemen, well known in the musical world, combined to make it a great success, and songs gay, pathetic, and humorous were keenly enjoyed. With Miss Heather-Bigg as hostess it goes without saying that everyone was pleased and happy.

The Highgate magistrates have recently fined two medical men for exceeding the speed limit, their reason being that they were hurrying to patients. A Harley Street specialist has expressed the opinion that cases arise every day in which the speed of the motor-car means life and death to a patient, and he makes the suggestion that when a doctor is satisfied that a patient's life depends upon his speed he should be empowered to display a small red cross upon the radiator in front of his car, and the police should be instructed to honour this "life or death" signal. At night the red cross might be fixed in front of one of the motor lamps.

We fear, in the hands of the average chauffeur, the "life and death signal" might speedily acquire undesirable significance—to the unfortunate pedestrian and his pet bow-wow.

WEDDING BELLS.

All good Registrationists will unite in wishing every happiness to Dr. W. I. de Courcy Wheeler, of Dublin, and his bride, Miss Elsie Shaw, eldest daughter of the Right Honble. Thomas Shaw, K.C., M.P., Lord Advocate, on the occasion of their marriage, which took place in Edinburgh on Tuesday last. Dr. de Courcy Wheeler is a staunch supporter of the movement for the State Registration of Nurses, of which he has given practical evidence at public meetings.

The wedding presents, which were numerous and costly, included gifts from several members of the Cabinet.

Practical Disinfection.

We have received an interesting booklet on the above subject published by Messrs. Newton, Chambers, and Co., Ltd., the Laboratories, Thorncliffe, near Sheffield, which opens with the following quotation:—

We know that there are harmful as well as beneficial microbes, and "the most far-reaching discovery of modern science has been the part which certain insects play in the spread of communicable diseases. The study of the life history of these insects again teaches us the lesson of cleanliness, and that modern disinfectants must be applied with the object not only of killing germs, but also in many cases of destroying either the eggs, the larvæ, or the full-grown insect concerned in the spread of the particular disease. Our knowledge as to the insects concerned in diseases is as yet but small; it is, however, fairly certain that *mosquitoes* play a part in the spread of malaria and similar complaints, *fleas* convey plague, *flies* convey dysentery, typhoid, cholera, yaws, and in this country the unknown organism or organisms of infantile diarrhoea. *Tsetse flies* convey sleeping sickness, *ticks* convey blackwater fever, and *stegomyia callopus* yellow fever, not to mention the various parasitic worm infections so common in tropical countries."

The characteristics of a good disinfectant are enumerated as follows. It must be a true and powerful germicide, of constant composition, non-poisonous, non-corrosive, non-bleaching, and non-injurious to common objects. It should flow easily from the tin drum, or bottle, even at freezing point, and not separate into layers either neat or when mixed with water. It should mix instantly with water, and should not be thrown out of emulsion by hard or salt water.

It is claimed for Izal, which is a disinfectant of high standing, officially adopted by His Majesty's Government, supplied by Messrs. Newton Chambers and Co., that it fulfils all these conditions, a claim which there is every reason to believe can be substantiated. It is, therefore, not surprising that it is in wide demand. We advise our readers to procure and study the booklet above mentioned. It is of special interest to school managers and school nurses, as it contains directions for the daily and weekly cleansing of a schoolroom, together with much other useful information as to disinfection under various circumstances.

A very convenient appliance, first devised by Dr. Mackenzie, Inspector of the Local Government Board, Scotland, is the Mackenzie spray, by means of which the walls, ceiling, furniture, and floor of an infected room can be thoroughly disinfected.

SANATOGEN.

The Sanatogen Company, 83, Upper Thames Street, London, E.C., has issued an interesting pamphlet on "The Use of Sanatogen in Children's Diseases," which we have pleasure in commending to the notice of nurses and midwives.

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