

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

A Conference on "The Medical Inspection and Treatment of School Children" will be held at the Institute of Hygiene on the 21st inst. It is intended to specially consider the problem of "How to Deal with Defective Children," and a number of prominent medical men have arranged to take part in the discussion. Sir William Bennett, F.R.C.S., K.C.V.O., will preside.

At the meeting of the Metropolitan Asylums Board on Saturday the receipt of a letter was reported from the Local Government Board stating that they had no objection to the experimental establishment of classes at two of the managers' hospitals for the instruction of candidates for the diploma in Public Health in hospital administration, provided that the proposal could be carried out without cost to the rates.

The Missionary Exhibition, organised by the Church Missionary Society under the general title of "Africa and the East," at the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, was opened by the Archbishop of Canterbury on Tuesday afternoon, and will remain open until Saturday, July 3rd. On Wednesday the Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs and several Mayors of Metropolitan Boroughs, attended in state at the opening ceremony.

At the Children's Sanatorium at Holt, Norfolk, which has just issued its second annual report, there is accommodation for 15 children, but, as the treatment must be of long duration, only about 50 cases can be admitted during the year. The Matron is Miss Marian Rumball, for many years Sister at the London Homœopathic Hospital, so it is not surprising that the Committee speak most highly of the work of the Matron and her assistants, or that it has won the admiration of all who have visited Holt. From the experience they have gained, and the knowledge they are acquiring, the Committee consider that small sanatoria will be found preferable to large ones. With a smaller number of patients they can be managed by an experienced Matron and nurses, under the medical supervision of a local practitioner (as has been most successfully carried out at Holt). In this way they would be homes rather than institutions, and the expense of resident medical officers and a large staff would be obviated, while the expense of a large building would be saved, and the cost of working lessened. They hope to provide a building at Holt for 40 children, and an appeal is shortly to be put forward to increase the building fund.

As a thank-offering for the recovery of his little son from a serious illness, Mr. J. H. Vernon, of Eastham, has made a donation of £1,000 for the endowment of a cot in the Liverpool Country Hospital for Children.

At a recent meeting between a sub-committee of the Cardiff Mental Hospital Committee, and a de-

putation of the Board of Guardians, at which Mr. Morgan Thomas presided, Mr. Edward Nicholl enquired what was going to be done about the planting of shrubs. As he was driving past the institution one Sunday he saw many scores of people watching the patients being exercised. Some were laughing and jeering, and it was a very painful sight. Dr. Goodall, the Medical Superintendent, said he resented this intrusion of the public very strongly. In one case a party came and looked on with opera glasses. Let us hope that the shrubs will soon grow up, or that the public will be made to understand that the patients of the mental hospital are not one of the sights of Cardiff.

It has been decided to promote a Citizens' Petition, calling upon the Town Council of Glasgow to appoint an independent inquiry into the administration of the Ruchill Hospital from the date of the Local Government Board inquiry up to the present. There is no doubt that the hush-up policy of the Town Council on the administration of this institution has aroused the keenest sense of disquietude in the minds of citizens.

Patent Infringement.

A JUDGE'S OPINION OF THE MEINECKE "PERFECTION" BED AND DOUCHE PAN.

Decision was recently given, by Judge Platt in the United States Circuit Court, New York, in an equity suit brought by Messrs. Meinecke and Company, Hospital Specialists, 48, Park Place, New York, against Messrs. Stransky and Company, New York, to restrain the defendants from infringing the patent granted in connection with the Meinecke "Perfection" Bed and Douche Pan, and also for damages for loss sustained by reason of the defendants manufacturing and marketing a similar pan. (This bed pan is the same as that made by Grimwades, Ltd., Stoke-on-Trent, who hold the British patent rights.)

Judge Platt, in giving a complete verdict for the complainants and ordering the defendants to pay damages (to be assessed later) for the infringement of the patent, said the "Perfection" bed and douche pan had met with great success because it actually did the things which were claimed for it. There had been overhanging rims in previous patents, but to discover that, by important changes, the rim of those previous patents could be put to the complete use which it had in the patent in suit, required in his (the Judge's) opinion, a touch of that divine fire called inventive genius. The central and valuable thought was to utilise the integral overhanging rim so that at its highest point it furnished support for the thighs, and brought them to the position they should be in for practical purposes, and at its lowest point took care of the buttocks and the spine, and all this with an easily adjustable, sanitary, comfortable, and fairly secure pan. The comfort of a sick person was not a thing that could be compassed by tricks of trade. Infringement was plain, and the usual injunction would ensue.

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