

nalled to stop. The captain then announced to the passengers that he was under orders from the British Admiralty to proceed to Reggio and to render assistance. The *Ophir* arrived at Reggio at seven o'clock in the evening and could at once see that something very serious had happened. "There were," Mr. Grimwade said, "a number of warships there, one of them British, constantly flashing searchlights on the town. We could see that the town was in a horrible state. Few, if any, of the buildings were in anything but a state of ruin. A vast mass of homeless and destitute humanity was congregated on the sea front. In a short time all the stewards and crew were busily engaged in getting the ship ready for large numbers of refugees. Chairs were unscrewed, beds were hastily put up, clean linen and pillows produced, and the saloon soon became a clean and well-equipped hospital. The stewardesses were mustered from all parts of the ship and served as nurses. Among the passengers were a few doctors, and these readily offered their services in conjunction with the ship's doctors. Passengers who had a knowledge of ambulance work also gave valuable assistance. During the night 150 maimed and sick persons were brought on board on stretchers. Two or three deaths occurred during the night, and there were also several births on board. Altogether we took on board 750 people, and the work of rescue was done exceedingly well. The refugees were practically all of the poorest class of Italians. They seemed absolutely cowed and crushed. Many were in terrible distress. One woman had lost all her children, and was quite out of her mind. Another had lost a leg and an arm, and was shockingly crushed about the head.

Now that the first excitement and horror of the terrible earthquake are over, immense efforts are being made all over the civilised world to help poor Italy, and on the spot the British relief party are doing noble work. The camp of the Royal Army Medical Corps at Catona, in Calabria, contains 200 beds, and is splendidly organised by Major Crawford's staff from Malta. Doctors, nurses, and especially stores are being poured into Catona by the British Committee at Rome. The Duke of Connaught paid a visit this week to Reggio in order to visit the field hospital of the Royal Army Medical Corps, returning to Malta on Wednesday. France and Russia are also doing humanitarian work of the highest order. Italy with its glorious associations is beloved and held in reverence by the whole world, and mourning with her afflicted people is very real.

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

The Royal Family have sent a number of presents to the hospitals for Christmas and New Year. Amongst them the Queen has sent a present of pheasants to the Chelsea Hospital for Women.

Dr. J. C. Thresh, the County Medical Officer to the Essex County Council, states that he came away from the International Congress on Tuberculosis at Washington fully convinced that consumption was a disease which could be entirely eradicated from our midst just as typhus fever and leprosy have been, and that with vigorous and united efforts before the end of the present century a case of consumption ought to be of rare occurrence in this country.

To help this happy consummation a Conference on Tuberculosis will be held at Caxton Hall, Westminster, on February 16th, 17th, 18th, and 19th. A number of specialists on consumption are supporting the movement, and will take part in the discussions, the subjects of which will include "Sanatoria for the Working Classes," "Open-Air Schools," "Meat as a Source of Infection," "Breathing," "Infection from Animals to Man," "Milk and Tuberculosis," "The Ventilation of Public Places," and "Châlets for the Consumptive Poor." An exhibition of models of sanatoria, nursing appliances, healthy and unhealthy rooms compared, foodstuffs, etc., will add to the value of the conference. All particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, 12, Cavendish Mansions, Portland Place, W.

The Annual Central Conference of the Poor-Law Guardians of England and Wales has been postponed from February 16th, and the following day, at the Guildhall, until after the issue of the Report of the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws, which is expected to make its appearance about the middle of next month, as it is considered of paramount importance that it should be thoroughly discussed at the Conference, which will probably be held in April. The Lord Mayor has consented to open the Conference. Dr. Macnamara, M.P., will be the president on the occasion, the 37th annual gathering of the kind, which promises to be one of the most interesting and important in the annals of the organisation.

The City of London Lying-in Hospital has received £2,000 from the executors of the late Mrs. A. A. Chippendall Higgin.

Lord Shaftesbury has presented 16 copies of Queen Alexandra's Christmas Gift Book for the use of the patients in the wards of the Hospital for Women, Soho Square, of which institution he is President.

The opening of the new Pathological Department at St. Bartholomew's Hospital about a month hence will mark a striking advance in medical science. The new department is a building of five

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