

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

At last Saturday's meeting of the Metropolitan Asylums Board the Ambulance Committee submitted a report on the recent inquiry into the ambulance service in the Metropolis. The main question under consideration was the provision of a system of rapid ambulances for the transport of cases of accident and sudden illness occurring in the streets. It is considered that the extension of the Board's present ambulance system to the conveyance of street cases should be neither difficult nor expensive. The scheme suggested provides for about ten additional ambulance stations and a number of telephone call boxes in the busiest thoroughfares and at the most awkward crossings. The service would be entirely under the Board's control, but would be worked in close co-operation with the Metropolitan police. The committee recommended that the Home Secretary be informed that the Board is prepared to speedily and economically inaugurate an efficient service of rapid ambulances for "street cases" in the County of London, and, if considered desirable, for the outlying portions of the Metropolitan Police District. The annual cost of the proposed extension would be about £10,000 a year. The recommendation of the Committee was adopted.

Valuable to medical men is a memorandum by the Director-General of the Army Medical Service on the transmission of enteric fever by the "chronic carrier." German investigations, he states, have established the fact that about three or four per cent. of the enteric fever convalescents become "chronic carriers." Hitherto all attempts to render these persons free by medicinal treatment have been unsuccessful. Experiments in India, however, are now yielding hopes of permanent cures.

A proposal was brought forward at the last meeting of the Education Committee of the London County Council to appoint two school inspectors at a salary of £250 a year each. One is an M.A. of Cambridge, has held scholarships under the Council, and is an honours B.Sc. of London. The other is a prizeman of St. John's College, Cambridge, having been first class in the Natural Science Tripos, and also has the degree of Ph.D. of Göttingen University. Mr. Gautrey moved that the recommendation be referred back, on the ground that the gentlemen selected, though brilliant scholars, could not have the requisite experience for the posts. How could these young men, he asked, dictate to an experienced mistress how the "baby room" of an infant school should be conducted? The Rev. Stewart Headlam seconded the amendment, which was rejected after an explanation by Miss Susan Lawrence.

Our sympathy is all with those who object to men being paid for public work they would not be qualified to perform in their own family circle.

The round sum of £100,000 required to have the Manchester Royal Infirmary free of debt for the opening by the King on July 6th has been secured.

An Austrian Sanatorium.

Within easy distance of Vienna, and amongst its beautiful hilly surroundings lies Wallischhof, one of those open-air Sanatoria whose motto, "Return to Nature," draws annually hundreds of weary people for the rest cure; not a rest cure pure and simple, but one that is combined with special baths, dieting, and open-air life. I was fortunate in being taken there by an ex-patient; she had been under treatment several times, knew the Superintendent, manageress, and staff well, and was sure of a welcome.

We had a long and hot walk over a hill from a village near and were thirsty. One of us thought iced coffee would be most refreshing; four o'clock suggested tea to my English mind; but my friend, knowing more about the rules of the place, laughed as she told us neither of these beverages was allowed. Milk, sweet or sour, buttermilk, or a fruit juice could be had instead, if we wished—we were just to have a little "Geduld," and leave ourselves in her hands when we got there. We were glad of the shady path through a wood on the outskirts of the property, and by and bye came upon a well laid out park with beautiful trees and shrubs. Some ladies dressed in rational attire (a loose dressing gown-like robe), without shoes and stockings and wearing sandals, were walking briskly down a side path, taking a constitutional before seeking refreshment after undergoing a special "douche" treatment. Deserted lounge chairs under the shady trees suggested others who had gone to the dining hall, and we soon came upon the House. To the casual observer the Sanatorium resembles a small hotel, with an open-air restaurant. The latter, under a wide-spreading lime tree in full bloom, was very busy and very merry; we found an empty table with difficulty, and sat down to rest, get cool, and quench our thirst with the "lemonade" of raspberry syrup which was brought to us by the neat-handed, sandalled maid.

My friend pointed out old acquaintances: here the poet, there the historian; a husband and wife under treatment together sometimes; here a fashionable woman, there a politician; all in negligé attire, sometimes minus collar, occasionally bare-footed and always without boots. One or two certainly looked ill, but the majority were evidently there for troubles which did not necessitate a regular invalid mode of life. A good many rheumatic patients, neurotic and anæmic cases are treated here with success, and people whose circulation is defective—skin not acting properly, and so on—also find great benefit.

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