

## Reflections.

### FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

We learn from a letter received for publication, signed by His Royal Highness Prince Arthur of Connaught, Hon. President, and the Duke of Norfolk, President, of the Japan-British Exhibition, that under the auspices of the Imperial Government of Japan, and with the cordial approval of the British Government, the arrangements for holding this exhibition at the White City, Shepherd's Bush, next year, have now been completed. The letter states that on the occasion of this exhibition the nobles of Japan will pour out from the treasures they have accumulated for centuries, works of art never before seen in this country, and only by a favoured few in Japan.

Under the presidency of Mr. Whitelaw Reid, the American Ambassador, Professor Osler will deliver the inaugural address of the winter session of the London School of Tropical Medicine on Tuesday, October 26th.

At the recent Annual Meeting of the Medico-Psychological Association, Dr. Helen Boyle presented an interesting paper entitled "An Account of an Attempt at the Early Treatment of Mental and Nervous Cases." Dr. Boyle said that during her two and a half years as a County Council medical officer in East London she had been appalled at the sight of mental patients being manufactured in the rough. People who were poor, unhappy, neglected, maltreated were turned into lunatics through sheer stress. All that could be done for a poor mother of ten children after childbirth was to give her a bottle of medicine and tell her to go home and rest. No hospital would take her, as she had no organic disease, and no asylum would take her, as she was not certifiable. Much good work was done by a hospital which took nervous cases early—cases which, but for timely treatment, would probably have been merged into the insane.

A Bill has been introduced in the House of Commons by Mr. Peel providing, in accordance with the recommendation of the majority of a Departmental Committee of the Home Office, that the Metropolitan Asylums Board should be the authority to establish an ambulance department in the metropolis. Meanwhile, Sir William Collins, the dissenting member of the above committee, has introduced a Bill, which has passed a second reading, making the London County Council the administrative authority. The Metropolitan Asylums Board have informed the Home Secretary that "in the event of the necessary authority being conferred on the managers by Parliament, they are convinced that they could speedily and economically inaugurate an efficient service of rapid ambulances for 'street cases' for the administrative County of London, and, if considered desirable, for the outlying portions of the Metropolitan Police District."

## New Preparations, &c.

### FORMAMINT.

We have on a former occasion drawn attention to the value of Formamint as supplied by A. Wulffing and Co., 12, Chenies Street, London, W.C., Formamint is a preparation supplied in the form of tablets, which are dissolved slowly in the mouth, and are prescribed as a substitute for gargles in inflammatory and infective conditions of the mouth and pharynx.

In an article in *The Medical Magazine* on "The Therapeutical Value of Formamint in Septic Affections of the Oro-Pharynx," Mr. Philip De Santi, F.R.C.S., thus describes this therapeutic agent:—

Formamint is, according to Seifert, a chemical combination of formic aldehyde and milk sugar. Each tablet contains so much of this new chemical combination that, when the tablet dissolves in the saliva, .01 of formic aldehyde is set free, and in its *status nascendi* exercises a strong disinfectant action. A small quantity of citric acid has been added to render the taste of the tablets pleasant and refreshing. The preparation in its dry state is free from odour, is easily split up into its component parts, and is markedly palatable."

Formamint is a non-toxic antiseptic and bactericide. A bottle of 50 tablets costs 1s. 11d.

### PLASMON.

The use of Plasmon and its preparations as an article of diet should be considerably increased by the testimony borne to its value by Lieutenant E. H. Shackleton, R.N., and others who have tested it under some of the most strenuous conditions of life.

Lieutenant Shackleton, in bearing witness to the excellence of these preparations, states:—

"We used them continually during the National Antarctic Expedition, and the Plasmon Powder was one of the principal items of food on the southern sledge journey in which Captain Scott, Dr. Wilson, and myself made the world's record for further south. Another sledging party practically lived on Plasmon during one journey they made. I have had occasion to fit out Polar expeditions for other people since my return to England, and have always included a quantity of your preparations among the provisions."

Dr. Marshall, medical officer of the expedition, as reported in a contemporary, has stated that "at times they were reduced to pemmican meat, and three to four biscuits daily. Plasmon biscuits and cocoa were of tremendous value."

Another member of the expedition, Mr. Douglas Mawson, interviewed by the same paper, said that though they obtained water from the snow by means of a Nansen cooker, which melted snow in one part whilst it cooked meat in another, they did not drink plain water. "We preferred cocoa," he said, "and of all the foods, the Plasmon foods were the ones used mostly—Plasmon biscuits, Plasmon cocoa, and Plasmon itself."

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