

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

On the motion of Professor Smith the Metropolitan Asylums' Board resolved at their last meeting:—"That, in view of the continued prevalence of scarlet fever, notwithstanding the extensive isolation accommodation which has been provided, the Local Government Board be asked to cause an inquiry to be instituted into the cause of this disease, and whether any, and, if so, what further, means can be adopted for its prevention."

The German Mount of Olives Hospital at Jerusalem was inaugurated in conjunction with the consecration of the Ascension Church, under the auspices of Prince Eitel Friedrich, son of the German Emperor, on Saturday last.

Reuter reports that from an early hour persons concerned in the ceremony were streaming towards the Mount of Olives, while all the streets and roads between the Jaffa Gate and the hospital were lined with dense throngs of spectators, who heartily demonstrated their interest in the occasion. The ceremony of consecration of the church was of an imposing nature. At the head of the procession from the Gala Hall of the hospital to the Ascension Church walked the whole clergy of the foundation with their ecclesiastical vessels and the Bibles presented by the German Emperor and Empress. After the strictly ecclesiastical proceedings had terminated, a reception of the Knights of Malta and St. John, and subsequently of the Consular Body, took place in the Gala Hall. The whole ceremony was altogether a great success, and the solemn service in the magnificently decorated church made a deep impression on all present.

Legal Matters.

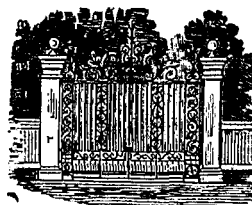
The Bakewell Guardians have recommended the Local Government Board to pay the taxed costs, amounting to £70, of Miss Elizabeth Swift, the nurse against whom the Master of the Workhouse, Mr. W. E. Ponsford, brought an action for libel at the recent Derbyshire Assizes. The action was the outcome of most serious allegations, which Miss Swift, and other nurses, considered it their plain duty, in the interests of the morality of the staff, to report to the Guardians.

The Judge, in summing up, remarked on the importance of the case, as it affected the conduct of an institution under a Government Department, and said the charges against the plaintiff were so grave that if established it would be impossible for him to remain in the public service. Unless the allegations against the plaintiff were true the defendant and the nurses whom she had called to corroborate her must have agreed to commit wilful perjury with the object of ruining the plaintiff and his family.

The jury found for the defendant, and the foreman affirmed that Miss Swift had not been actuated by malice, and that the statements she made were true in substance and fact.

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



Never before has there been gathered together in any country such a collection of babies as those at the World's Baby Congress at the Ideal Home Exhibition at Olympia. They hold merry court while a

struggling, seething mass of hot humanity enters the gangway, which burly policemen, with an eye on the interminable queue behind, beg you to "pass along quickly please," and one realises the privilege of representing the press.

On mentioning the *BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING* one was at once admitted to an intimate acquaintance with these charming little people, all as bonnie as can be, and as happy as the day is long. Mrs. Palmer, whose brilliant idea it was to bring them together, naturally ascribes their healthy condition to Virol, for they are one and all Virol babies. Swinging sedately on an Indian cradle was a little Norwegian baby of a few summers, in her picturesque national costume. On a charpoy near by a little child from India was snugly curled, "Liza" from Trinidad smiled bewitchingly on the world at large while Thumbie and Ummah from Ceylon had the solemnity of the unfathomable East in their dark eyes; and Beebee, of Jamaican origin—well, Beebee's portrait is on next page.

English, Scotch, and Irish babies, of course, are there, besides French, German, Italian, Turkish, Russian, Dutch, Japanese, Chinese, West African, East and West Indian, South American, Moorish, and Creole infants and small children, and others of different sections of the great Indian Empire. Questions of politics, caste, and creed trouble them not one wit. They feed, play, sleep, and, it must be added, flirt with one another with supreme indifference to all these questions which in later life will seem so vital to them, and are the most bewitching object lesson imaginable to their elders that the millenium would be near at hand if only they would not disagree about matters, which to the baby world—which, after all, is nearest to the celestial one—seem so unimportant.

Another thing which strikes the observer is how much those nations have lost which have discarded national costumes, the graceful Indian saree, the bright coloured silk trousers and zouave of the little Turk, the sapphire velvet and silver costume of a small boy from the East Indies, introduced into the scene a wealth of colour and picturesqueness never seen in a gathering of English children.

The National Society of Day Nurseries, 1, Sydney Street, Fulham Road, S.W., also have a very interesting exhibit at the exhibition, under the personal supervision of Muriel Viscountess Helmsley, where those interested in crèche work have an opportunity of seeing what is being done to provide suitable accommodation for babies whose mothers have to go out to work daily. The society is exhibiting a model for the guidance not only of those

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