

## Reflections.

### FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

Princess Henry of Battenberg will preside at the general meeting of the Ladies' Association Work Guild of the Queen's Hospital for Children in Hackney Road on Thursday, November 3rd, at 3 p.m., at the hospital, when the work contributed during the year will be on view.

The programme of the Duke and Duchess of Connaught during their visit to South Africa includes the presentation of St. John Ambulance certificates by His Royal Highness and the laying of the foundation-stone of University Hall at Cape Town, a visit to the hospital at Livingstone, a visit to the hospital and schools at Buluwayo, and the laying of the foundation-stone of the new university building at Pietermaritzburg.

The Bishop of Oxford, a son of the late Sir James Paget, when distributing the prizes to the students of the Royal Dental Hospital, Leicester Square, said he remembered his father telling him that surgery gained more and more strength and dignity for its position as it became more and more scientific. There was the first great principle of the advance of surgery. Second, was the high standard of personal honour and generosity. There was one other great power for the advancement of the profession, and that was that the student exercised in it charity and kindness. He urged them to "play the game." No one knew the power that kindness exercised in the world.

Lady Aberdare has informed the Committee of the Cardiff Infirmary that she has instructed her bankers to pay £1,050 to the Cardiff Infirmary Legacy Fund, which is to be used solely as an endowment of a bed in the new ward for women (Thompson's Ward). In addition Lord and Lady Aberdare have also personally contributed £1,500 towards the new pathological theatre, and collected a large sum of money for the same department. It is hoped Lady Aberdare will perform the opening ceremony when the pathological theatre is ready for use.

An important addition has been made to the equipment of Edinburgh Royal Infirmary by the establishment of a clinical medicine laboratory, the gift of an anonymous donor. Two rooms have been set apart for use as the laboratory, and the apparatus provided comprises the most modern appliances for the physical examination of patients. These include a very sensitive recording galvanometer which registers the electric currents produced by each beat of the heart; there are instruments for the study of blood pressure, and there has been installed a powerful apparatus for the screen examination by X-rays of various internal diseases. In addition to providing for laboratory work, the donor has supplied for use in the clinical medicine theatre an elaborate Leitz projection lantern which can be used to demonstrate microscopic specimens, solid objects, and diagrams, as well as ordinary lantern slides.

## Pure Food.

The question of a pure food supply is one of personal interest to every member of the community; to the sick it is a vital one, and may turn the balance between death and recovery. It is one, therefore, to which those responsible for buying in provisions for hospitals and infirmaries should give their earnest attention. True, contracts are usually entered into for hospital supplies, but this affords an opportunity to have samples submitted and tested before goods are accepted, and when such goods are delivered they should from time to time be tested to ensure that they are up to sample.

That great vigilance is needed, and that even then it is difficult for consumers to protect themselves from fraudulent dealers, must have impressed every one who attended a lecture on the subject of the Food and Drugs Acts, delivered by Mr. John Foot, Chief Inspector for the Borough of Bethnal Green, at 38, Russell Square, by permission of Mrs. C. Leigh Hunt Wallace, under the auspices of the National Pure Food Association. True, Parliament passed an Adulteration Act in 1875, but when local authorities conscientiously endeavoured to put this Act into force, and inspectors purchased samples of foods in order to test their purity or the reverse, the High Courts in their wisdom ruled that an inspector purchasing samples for the purpose of detecting adulteration was not prejudicially affected by the purchase, and in consequence no one could be punished for selling adulterated goods so purchased. In consequence the Act was useless, and an Amendment Act was passed in 1879 and another in 1883. In spite of these, however, when a case was tried involving the sale of butter *versus* butterine three judges of the High Courts were unable to say what butter was or what it should be. An intelligent dairymaid, said Mr. Foot, could have told them inside of ten minutes, but the law was never made for practical people like that. The consequence was that a fourth Act of Parliament, known as the Margarine Act, was passed in 1887, and therefore four conflicting statutes as to the sale of adulterated food had to be applied.

In 1898 Parliament began to deal with the question all over again; a Royal Commission was appointed for about the tenth time, and in due time reported to the House of Commons, with the result that the Act which is a compound essence of all the others, the Sale of Drugs and Foods Act, 1875-1899, was passed, which left the position much the same as before.

Referring to adulterations practised, Mr. Foot instanced that of white pepper with rice flour, olive oil had, he said, not necessarily any connection with olives, Demerara sugar might consist largely of crystals coloured with aniline dye, but perhaps the top limit was reached in connection with jams. To keep within the law purveyors of even so-called high-class jam notify that they are "improved with choice fruit juices"; in plain English, they consist largely of the pulp of apples, turnips, and marrows. The analysis of such a jam had proved it to contain 40 per cent. of pulp, 39 per

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