

## Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

It is the King's intention to entertain 100,000 of the London children at a fête at the Crystal Palace on Friday, June 30th, in celebration of the Coronation.

The Lord Mayor, Sir T. Vezey Strong, has accepted the position of President of the British National Committee for the International Hygiene Exhibition, Dresden, 1911, as he regards it "to be the duty of every patriotic Englishman to support this committee in upholding the reputation of Great Britain as the pioneer and leader in hygiene."

Reporting to the London County Council on the subject of the present outbreak of small-pox, the Public Health Committee state that it is impossible to forecast with any certainty whether the measures which are being taken will suffice to bring the outbreak to an end, and it is quite possible that a further extension of the prevalence will manifest itself, especially as there have been several cases concerning which the source of infection has not been discovered, and the present outbreak is occurring at a period of the year which is not unfavourable to such extension. If necessity arises the committee will be prepared to advise the Council as to any further steps it should take for dealing with the outbreak.

The Cremation Society of England, in their report for 1910, give the names of a number of distinguished persons cremated during the past year, and say: "Although cremation may not seem to have made much appreciable headway amongst the general public the increasing number of intellectual people who express their preference for it proves that it is only a question of time for the advantages of cremation to be perceived by the majority, and for it to be eventually adopted by all classes."

The 131st annual report of the Board of Management of the General Hospital, Birmingham, shows that this busy, and up-to-date hospital is maintaining and indeed increasing its activity in its many departments. The increase of the nursing staff has proved to be of great benefit to the nursing staff and to the work of the hospital, and in order to give a still further reduction of working hours, and to increase the time allowed for meals, an additional seven nurses have been sanctioned, increasing the total nursing staff to 127. The Board express their very hearty appreciation of the services rendered to the hospital by Mr. Howard J. Collins, the House Governor, and his staff, and their cordial thanks are offered to Miss Musson (the Matron) and the nursing staff.

The proprietors of Jeyes' Fluid have had the honour to receive the only Warrant of Appointment for Disinfectants to Her Gracious Majesty Queen Alexandra. Messrs. Jeyes' also hold the Royal Warrant to His Majesty King George V.

## Criminal Statistics.

The *Monthly Record* of the Penal Reform League for March, to be obtained for 1d. stamp from the Hon. Secretary, 7, Holly Village, Highgate, London, discusses the late Blue Book on Criminal Statistics, and Mr. Simpson's introduction.

It points out that the statistics do not show that crime is increasing. It seems to be now decreasing again.

There are, however, various causes which hinder progress in efficient dealing with crime, such as the inefficiency of present methods, and resulting distrust on the part of the public, who are beginning to awake to the facts. The complaint of the Secretary of the Howard Association of the disastrous treatment of degenerates and defectives is corroborated, especially of the treatment of boys and young men who are given short sentences in prison. No doubt there is ill-balanced sentimentalism on the one hand and brutality on the other. Both are hindrances to progress. But there is probably a growing endeavour on the part of the community to gain some understanding of the criminal and of the causes of crime, without which it is impossible to deal with them effectively.

It is urged that an intelligent public opinion will demand:—

(1) Thorough examination of the physical, mental, and other conditions of offenders, and of their antecedents and circumstances before sentence is passed.

(2) Adequate provision, under proper safeguards, for those incapable of satisfactory self-direction, so as to afford them the most useful and happy life they are capable of.

(3) Adequate training for those who require it, and are capable of becoming useful citizens, either under probationary supervision or in segregation.

(4) The contriving of measures by which offenders, whether rich or poor, shall be required to make some attempt, involving sustained personal effort on their own part, to make amends for goods stolen or injuries inflicted.

## Borstal Methods for Female Offenders.

Sir E. Ruggles-Brise, speaking last week at a meeting at Devonshire House in behalf of the Dalston Refuge for Women, spoke of the present methods in operation, so far as the prison authority was concerned, for the rescue of young female offenders under the operation of the Borstal system, and pointed out how inadequate existing methods were for grappling with the magnitude of this social difficulty and danger.

In the case of offenders constantly committed, discharged from, and re-committed to prison for petty offences, he thought that a career such as that described should be broken by the acceptance of the principle of "indeterminate" sentences in the case of the young, even when the particular offence is trivial, but one of a sequence or chain, showing perverse tendency—which, unless arrested by Borstal methods, must inevitably culminate in a life of habitual crime.

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