

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

Princess Louise Duchess of Argyll has consented to visit Bexhill on July 13th to open the Little Folks' Home, which is being established as a sea-side branch of the Queen's Hospital for Children, Bethnal Green.

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress will attend the garden party of the British Home and Hospital for Incurables, at Streatham, on July 12th.

An order came into force on Monday making it compulsory upon medical officers of hospitals to notify all cases of pulmonary tuberculosis occurring among out-patients or in-patients. The notification is to be made to the Medical Officer of Health for the area in which the hospital is situated within forty-eight hours after the first recognition of the disease.

There has just died in Southwark Mr. A. J. Prestage, until recently one of the staff of Guy's Hospital. Not only did Mr. Prestage himself give half-a-century's work to the institution, but his father, grandfather, and great-grandfather spent fifty years each in the services of the hospital—a continuous service by one family of 200 years, which takes us back to the days of Good Queen Anne!

In connection with the allegations that the Parkhurst Military Hospital is under-staffed, made at the inquest concerning Sergeant Stokes, R.A.M.C., who committed suicide, a most full and searching inquiry has been instituted, Colonel Labal Mondiere, R.G.A., being President of the Court.

The work done by St. Paul's Eye Hospital, Liverpool, received a well-merited meed of praise at the 38th annual meeting last week, over which the Lord Mayor presided, and remarked that no loss of faculties was so great as the loss of sight. He had been through the institution a few days ago and saw a poor little child brought in too late to be effectively treated, and the verdict was that it would be blind for life. The memory of that child had haunted him ever since. He was proud that Liverpool had originated the system of admitting mother and child to its Eye Hospital, and that its example would shortly be followed in London.

Dr. Nimmo Walker, discussing the question of the treatment of school children, said that the present system, or lack of system, was not the most economical from a civic point of view. There was a limit even to the endurance of doctors and nurses, and if a large part of their time were taken up seeing minor cases they could not bring the same freshness and keenness to the serious ones.

Dr. J. H. Bartlet, President of the East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital, has given £1,000 to endow a bed in that institution in memory of his late wife.

The Medical and Sanitary Organisation of the Field Army Home Defence.

An instructive and interesting lecture was given on April 28th at the Midwives' Institute, 12, Buckingham Street, by F. J. Warwick, Esq., M.B., Major R.A.M.C. Territorials, on "The Medical and Sanitary Organisation of the Field Army Home Defence." All those present came away with a clearer idea of the difficulties and dangers of the Medical Service Corps and the urgent need to strengthen some of the weak spots in the home defence scheme.

It was asserted that the stretcher-bearers are taken from the bandsmen, many of whom are alcoholic and absolutely untrained; that the sanitary work will also devolve on untrained men, who will grudgingly perform this most necessary, but in many ways uncongenial, work; and, worst of all, perhaps, the care of the wounded in the evacuating zone—*i.e.*, on the line of communication to the general hospital—will be in the hands of the voluntary aid detachments. These are more or less in a chaotic condition at present, and, with the best will in the world, volunteers with only first aid and home nursing qualifications, and an occasional field drill, are hardly fitted to cope with the task. We are indebted to Japan for two practical items.

Each soldier is provided with an "Identity disc," which is worn round the neck, having the name, the number of the unit, and the religion of the wearer inscribed on it, in place of the old identification card, which was sewn on to the jacket and often lost or worn by someone else. The clothing department also issues to each, as part of his outfit, a first-aid dressing packet, containing inside its outer cover two safety pins in waxed paper, directions for use, a piece of waterproof, a roller bandage, two pieces of sterilised gauze, and two pads. This package is kept in the right-hand pocket, and if properly applied will be a safe and efficient dressing for temporary use. On the battlefield only the dangerously wounded are treated on the spot, under temporary shelter; the severely wounded are carried to the regimental aid posts (chosen beforehand by the medical officer for each unit), and the slightly wounded are directed or assisted, if necessary, to the same spot, until the ambulance waggons can convey them to the field hospital. On the battlefield the work of the Medical Corps is limited usually to the control of hemorrhage, the application of temporary splints, and field dressings, and the issue of identification tallies with the name, regiment, nature of wound or injury, and treatment, a green card being used for dangerous cases and a white for all others.

Few realise how very important the work of the sanitary squads is, for the deaths from epidemics often outnumber those from wounds. The water-carts are extremely important, and are now fitted with filters of the Pasteur type, whilst many deaths from collapse and exposure are prevented by promptitude in fitting up temporary kitchens.

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