

Another hospital centre is Watlington, and our readers will agree that our illustration of the hospital there is a very charming one.

At Five Oak Green, Tudeley, the Mission has been fortunate enough to secure a house, formerly the Rose and Crown Inn, which provides a delightful hospital, as well as living and business rooms for the lady workers. The Mission is doing admirable work and deserves all the support which can be accorded it, both personal service and financial aid.

A PORTABLE HOSPITAL FOR DIVERS.

An interesting hospital which is now ready for shipment abroad, is a diver's hospital, described in a recent issue of the *Daily News*. It is portable, and may be placed on the deck of a vessel. There are only two such hospitals. One is the property of the Admiralty and is in use at Portsmouth; the other, at present in the workshop of Messrs. Siebe, Gorman, and Co., has been purchased by the Russian Government, and will be shipped to Kronstadt in a few days. A third is under construction, and this, too, is to be sent to a Russian naval port in the Gulf of Finland.

The diver's hospital is technically known as a decompression chamber, a steel cylinder weighing about a ton and a quarter. Every diver knows that if he makes a too rapid ascent from deep water the minute air bubbles which saturate his whole system, in their effort to escape, create a state of effervescence resulting probably in paralysis. He becomes, in fact, analogous to a bottle charged with soda water, and the only way to cure him is to put him back in the same atmospheric conditions as those which obtained when he was working below.

There is just room in this hospital for the patient and the doctor who accompanies him. The patient reclines on a comfortable bed, and a bell, a telephone, and electric light are fitted. There is a circular window with glass an inch and a half thick to withstand the air pressure, and a metal cap may be screwed down over it as an additional security. Medicine and food may be passed into the cylinder through an air-lock in such a way that none of the pressure can escape.

The symptoms shown by a deep-water diver on ascending too rapidly are faintness and giddiness, difficulty in breathing, or pain in the limbs. The doctor is summoned immediately, and the patient is put into the hospital as quickly as possible. When the door is barred and bolted the engine is started, and the air pressure raised to between 30 and 40 lbs. per square inch. It should be explained that the

doctor or expert attendant who accompanies him, being fit and strong, is not affected by the air pressure, which may be regulated from the interior by means of valves. Pressure gauges are placed inside the cylinder for the doctor's guidance. Having reached the required pressure, a gradual process of decompressing the patient is begun. In many cases a pressure of 30 to 40 lbs. per square inch is enough to relieve him. The hospital is made to withstand a pressure of 300 lbs. per square inch.

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

Queen Amelia of Portugal paid a visit last week to the London Hospital.

The President of the Local Government Board, whose interest in the welfare of the children of the country is well known, informed the House of Commons last week that he proposed to enjoy a part of his holidays by issuing a new boarding-out order that would stimulate progress so that the rest of the country would reach the high level of London in this particular.

Dr. Reece has been deputed by the Local Government Board to investigate an outbreak in North Devon and North-West Cornwall, which is believed to be one of spotted fever. Five deaths and some thirty cases are reported.

During the meeting of the British Medical Association at Birmingham the certificate of honorary membership conferred on Mr. Chamberlain was handed to his son, Mr. Neville Chamberlain, by the President, who said that this was an attempt on the part of the Association to convey its sense of affection and esteem to Mr. Chamberlain. It was due to him that tropical diseases were now studied not only in England but in every civilised country that had tropical dependencies.

A Parliamentary Paper (Cd. 5775) has been issued by the Colonial Office containing correspondence between the Imperial Government, the Governments of the African Protectorates, and various public bodies and individuals in which the suggestions are made that the common tsetse fly (*glossina morsitans*) may prove to be a carrier of sleeping sickness, and that it is possible this fly may be eliminated by the destruction of game.

Owing to representations on the subject of sleeping sickness made by missionaries and others in Nyasaland the Colonial Office, acting on the advice of the Royal Society, determined to send out a Commission for three years to investigate more completely than has hitherto been possible the whole question of the relation of the African fauna to the maintenance and spread of human *trypanosomiasis*.

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