

who also acts as home sister. Seven hundred and three operations were performed in the hospital last year.

From the highly-polished floors to the well-stocked stores, everywhere there is evidence of the care exercised in all departments, and the contentment of the adult patients and the happiness of the children must be evident to the most casual observer.

The dinner tins, which have recently been introduced at the instance of the Matron, for keeping the food hot during its transit from the kitchen to the wards, appear to give great satisfaction. Without such provision it is almost impossible to serve dinners sent out from a central kitchen in an appetising condition.

There is an X-ray department, and a Finsen lamp, necessary additions to the equipment of a hospital in these days, but the maintenance of which imposes additional financial expense to the institution. It is unnecessary to add that subscriptions and donations will be gladly received by the Secretary, Mr. Alfred G. Buck. To help to augment the income, and to arouse interest amongst the industrial classes, a Workers' Committee has been formed, with two representatives on the Hospital Committee.

The hospital garden provides the vegetables and a certain amount of the fruit used, so that the freshness of the supply is assured.

The nurses' home, which is separate from the hospital, was built some ten years ago, the night nurses' quarters being cut off by a baize door. The windows have a pleasant outlook over the garden and tennis lawn, and near by is a mulberry tree, on which the luscious purple fruit is just now glowing, and under which in fine, warm weather the sisters usually have their tea.

The hospital has its own laundry in the grounds, where the washing for the wards, home and staff is done. Near by is the new mortuary, the gift of the president, Mr. W. W. Hewitt, which is excellently planned, with a post-mortem room, the mortuary proper, and a small chapel, in which relatives can see the body in Christian and dignified surroundings, beautified with flowers, with which it is proposed to keep it always supplied. It is hoped, also, that it will be possible, if so desired, to have the first part of the funeral service there. When one thinks of the dreariness of most hospital mortuaries less than a quarter of a century ago, and the shock which they must have been to sorrowing relatives, it is a joy to see one like that at Colchester, the effect of which must be to uplift and console the mourners.

M. B.

## REFLECTIONS

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

In accordance with an order made by the London County Council, under the Public Health (London) Act, and approved by the Local Government Board, the disease known as acute poliomyelitis, or acute polio-encephalitis, will be notifiable within the Administrative County of London from September 1st until March 12th next, inclusive. This terrible-sounding disease is an affection of the spinal cord and brain.

Building operations have just been commenced on the extension of the Samaritan Free Hospital for Women, Marylebone Road, in order to provide increased accommodation for the nursing and domestic staff. The estimated cost is £3,000.

We are informed that an important Health Conference and Exhibition will be held in London, in June, 1912, under the title of "The Bi-annual Health Conference and Exhibition, 1912," which will extend over a week or longer, and particulars of which will be announced very shortly. We understand that the Conference and Exhibition will be on a very extensive scale, and expert public workers are interesting themselves in it. It will include a baby show, and will deal with practical questions of public health, especially from the standpoint of simple home-life. Miss R. V. Gill has undertaken the organisation of the Conference.

Further cases of cerebro-spinal fever and infantile paralysis have been reported to the Holworthy (Devon) Rural Council by its medical officer, Dr. Gray, two of which have proved fatal.

A new hospital, designed to accommodate a dozen patients, was last week opened at Littlehampton by Lady Aubrey Fletcher, the site for which has been given by the Duke of Norfolk. Miss Farrow has been appointed matron.

Important additions to the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, to be opened next month, include a clinical laboratory, costing £5,000, the gift of an anonymous donor, and additional accommodation for patients costing £25,000. Further extensions at an estimated cost of £80,000 are also in contemplation, towards which a considerable sum has already been subscribed.

"It is understood," says a contemporary, "that one of the foremost bacteriologists in this country will shortly leave for South Africa to investigate a form of pneumonia that is very prevalent amongst miners there. This disease is extremely fatal, and nearly a third of those attacked succumb to its effects as a rule. The investigation in question is being furthered by individuals interested in the eradication of this virulent disorder, which has so far defied ordinary methods of attack."

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