

REFLECTIONS

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

Mrs. Godfrey Walker, of Northbrook House, Exeter, has given £1,000 to the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, for the endowment of two children's cots, to be named after her husband and sister.

The Salop Infirmary has celebrated its 165th anniversary. During the year the Honble. Mrs. William Herbert has decorated and refurnished the chapel in memory of her husband, who for many years was Chairman of the Board. The final accounts for the new Nurses' Home show a credit balance of £113 16s. 3d., a fact which has given great satisfaction to the Directors.

The Prime Minister has announced that he fears there is no reasonable prospect of the Asylum Officers (Employment, Pensions, and Superannuation) Bill being passed into law during the present session.

The Nursing department of the Brighton Poor Law Infirmary is in a very unsatisfactory condition—for which the Guardians, and not the officials, are to blame. A new Nurses' Home is most urgently needed, and the Board is weakly shirking the expenditure. The Home will have to be provided if nurses are to be encouraged to remain, and the patients properly attended to. The report of the Inspector and Miss Todd proves that neither health nor decency can be maintained under existing arrangements. The wise thing to do is to begin to build the new Home, just as soon as suitable plans can be drafted.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

NEW MEDICAL OFFICER APPOINTED.

At the weekly meeting of the London County Council yesterday, Mr. Edward White presiding, Dr. William Heaton Hamer was unanimously appointed as from January next to be medical officer of health and school medical officer for the county of London at a commencing salary of £1,250 a year.

"GRAND PRIX". FOR
MESSRS. A. WUFLING & CO.

A "Grand Prix" at the International Hygiene Exhibition at Dresden is a much coveted honour, as it represents the highest medical opinion in Europe. The only "Grand Prix" in the pharmaceutical section has been awarded to Messrs. A. Wulfling & Co., the well-known manufacturers of Sanatogen, Formamint, and Albulactin. These preparations have attained a well-deserved reputation, and the firm are to be congratulated on its endorsement by so high an authority as the International Hygiene Exhibition.

PROFESSIONAL REVIEW.

MEDICAL SCIENCE OF TO-DAY.

A most interesting book just brought out is "Medical Science of To-day"—a popular account of the more recent developments in medicine and surgery, by Dr. Willmott Evans, F.R.C.S., Surgeon to the Royal Free Hospital—which is published by Messrs. Seeley, Service & Co., Ltd., 38, Great Russell Street, London, W.C., price 5s.

The writer states he "feels strongly that a wider acquaintance, on the part of the public, with the theories of the treatment of disease and injury will lead to a higher estimation of the value of medical science in the State"; and further, "If we recognise, as we must, the all importance of the prevention of disease, we have to acknowledge that success in carrying out the preventive measures which medical science has indicated does not depend only on the members of the medical profession. It depends on the Government, on every voter in the kingdom, and on every individual citizen; for without the co-operation of those who govern and those who are governed medical men can do nothing. Unless the country as a whole recognizes the importance and the efficacy of the measures of prevention suggested, any attempts that may be made must fail. Sometimes by an active interference the passage of laws calculated to prevent disease will be hindered, but it is no less common for the apathy and mere inertia of the people to put insurmountable obstacles in the way of the progress of preventive medicine.

"Much of the opposition, active or passive, on the part of the general mass of the public is due merely to want of knowledge."

Dealing with the causes of disease, we read that "it is very difficult, if not impossible, to lay down any precise definition of disease, and we may be content with saying that it is a deviation from health. Such a deviation may be caused by one or other of two conditions. Either it may be due to some bodily defect which has been inherited, or it may proceed from some cause coming from without. It is important to bear in mind that in many cases diseases which are said to be inherited have not existed in the child at birth, but they have affected the child because he has inherited a constitution which rendered him liable to be attacked by that disease; that is to say, he has inherited the predisposition to the disease, but not the disease itself. Thus pulmonary phthisis, or 'consumption' itself, is not inherited, but merely the predisposition to it."

"The Microscope in Medicine" affords material for two most interesting chapters. We read that "the unaided eye of the physician is incapable of recognizing the minute structures of the organs of the body in health and the changes which those organs undergo in disease. Yet the knowledge supplied by the examination of healthy and diseased tissues has done as much as anything else to bring the medicine of the present day to the position to which it has now attained." The question of "immunity" is another absorbing topic. It is true

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)