

## REFLECTIONS

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

On Saturday last, before Parliament was prorogued until February 14th, it was announced in the King's Speech that the Royal Assent had been given to the National Insurance Bill.

King Edward's Hospital Fund for London has this year distributed the large sum of £151,000.

The Queen has sent £10 to the National Industrial Home for Crippled Boys, Kensington, and £5 to the Orphan Working School and Alexandra Orphanage "to render Christmas Day a happy one to the children."

In the annual report of the Howard Association just issued, the Committee state that they are anxious to press upon the authorities the necessity of providing different treatment for prisoners who suffer from physical disabilities and mental weaknesses. Probably one-third of the prison population belonged to one of these classes. This continued neglect of the feeble-bodied and the feeble-minded is, the Committee urge, fraught with disaster.

The Committee insist that justice, mercy, and common sense demand that afflicted prisoners should be properly treated by the State in their early days "and not, as at present, be left to graduate in crime and to qualify for penal servitude." Another point upon which the Committee dwell is the needless imprisonment of boys for small offences.

At the Annual Meeting held at the Mansion House of the Council on Health and Housing, the report presented laid stress on the importance of linking infant health work with the Medical Inspection of school children.

The financial condition of the Brompton Hospital for Consumption seems rather serious. The committee of management report that they owe their bankers £10,000; and, if they are unable to pay off the loan by next March, it is probable that some of the beds will have to be closed. One regrets to hear of this fine charity being crippled for want of funds—as its country branch at Frimley is doing very good work indeed, and is a model of what a sanatorium for the cure of tuberculosis should be.

The Board of Management of Chester Infirmary has decided to set in operation the delayed scheme for the extension and renovation of the hospital at an estimated cost considerably exceeding £25,000. Gifts amounting to more than £17,000 have been already received.

Three schemes are being put before the friends of the late Mrs. Ramsay Macdonald, and are being influentially supported as suitable memorials of her life, a sculptured group embodying an idea showing

her character and ideals, the Baby Clinic at Kensington—the joint memorial of the Women's Labour League to Mrs. Macdonald, and her friend and co-secretary Mrs. Middleton—and a Margaret Macdonald Ward at the Leicester Children's Hospital, which is receiving the support of her friends in Leicester, as urgently needed.

## A NECESSITY OF CIVILIZATION.

"There is not a single civilized man in the world who does not want cotton goods. I don't care who he is, or where he is, how he lives, or what he does, every man wants cotton goods in some shape or form." So spoke Mr. Balfour when addressing the British Cotton-growing Association at Manchester, and he might have gone even further, for they are a necessity also to man in a very primitive state of civilization. Penetrate to the heart of Central Africa, and you will find the man who has learnt to need something more than a loin cloth clad in snowy white calico, fashioned into a simple garment, which is as becoming—in contrast with black hands and feet, and head surmounted by a picturesque red cap—as it is sanitary. The women also will be clothed in gaily printed calico sheeties, which set off the dark skins to the best advantage, and they are quite as particular that the pattern printed on their best sheeties should be Lancashire's latest, as is the Society woman at home to have the fashion from Paris; a variation of the fact that "the Colonel's lady and Judy O'Grady are sisters under their skins."

Since cotton goods are a necessity of civilized life it behoves us to be certain that they are of high quality, for they are often faked and the poverty of the quality is apparent as soon as the "dress" is washed out. The firm of Horrockses, Crewdson & Co., Ltd., Cotton Spinners and Manufacturers, of Preston, Manchester and London, have always had a high reputation for excellence since its founder, John Horrocks, in the eighteenth century laid down the principle that the work of his machines should be the best of its kind. Good housewives know well that if the name of Horrockses is stamped at intervals on the selvedge of the cotton fabrics they buy that they need no further guarantee of the excellence of their quality, hence the world-wide reputation and popularity of their materials. To no section of the community is the quality of cotton goods more important than to Matrons and Home Sisters who are responsible for the selection and up-keep of large quantities of sheets, pillow cases and other supplies, made of long cloth, twilled calico, &c. The wear and tear of such articles in hospitals, infirmaries and nursing homes is very hard, and laundries are, as a rule, a trial to all concerned, but this anxiety is reduced to a minimum when Messrs. Horrockses supply the goods used, as the excellence of their quality can be absolutely relied upon.

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