

need. On the eve of my return to Onitsha after furlough, I do plead that someone will come out to help. It may be you who read this; hold yourself in readiness, and be prepared to say, 'Yea, Lord, I will go for Thee,' and real joy will come into your life.

"But if you cannot go yourself, do pray for those who are already at the front, that God may keep them in touch with Himself. Also many of the patients need following up by prayer, and you at home can be sharers in this work."

The following cutting from a Washington paper of May 15th has reached our office, with the question, "Isn't this disgusting?" from a well-known American nurse. It is too extraordinary to avoid quotation:—

"A fusillade of rapidly exploding dynamite mines and the sudden transformation of a miniature battle-field, set with platoons of manikin soldiers, into 'a field of carnage,' with a fully-equipped corps of Red Cross nurses rushing to do service among the 'wounded,' was the crowning feature in a series of surprises, which made the \$50,000 fete Mr. and Mrs. Edward Beale McLean gave last night one of the most astonishing and spectacular affairs ever given in Washington. Small fortresses dotted the gardens and cavalry and cannon added to the realism of the martial picture.

"Red Cross ambulances and Red Cross nurses, arranged on wires charged with electricity, whirled rapidly to the scenes of the several explosions; and, within twenty minutes after the firing of the first mine, the Italian gardens, set with fifty battalions of soldiers in battle array looked like a Red Cross hospital camp in full tide of a bloody fray.

"The occasion marked the climax of a week's entertaining, planned in honour of the delegates to the International Red Cross Conference, now in session in Washington. Eight hundred guests, including notables from every country in the civilized world, attended the reception, which was marked by the elegance of a court function.

"The gorgeousness of the floral decorations surpassed anything Washington has witnessed in a decade, while in the gold banquet hall stood a board set with the magnificent gold service presented to the late Thomas Walsh by the late King Leopold of the Belgians."

It is this outrageous type of ostentatious American which at home and abroad rouses antagonism and anarchy. Gorgeousness and gold plate have a peculiarly irritating effect upon starved and ragged humanity—especially when they realise that their labour has produced it—and the sight of "a Red Cross hospital camp in full tide of a bloody fray" is by no means amusing to the class which contributes the blood!

REFLECTIONS.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

More than 500 guests attended a garden fête held at Devonshire House, Piccadilly, in aid of the National League for Physical Education and Improvement. Some interesting items were put forth in the speeches. The Duke of Devonshire hoped in referring to a "certain Act of Parliament," nothing would be done which would in any way weaken or tend to depreciate the admirable work by the great voluntary associations of which the League for Physical Education was such a conspicuous example. The best form of insurance was prevention, and the object of the League was to determine, as far as it could, rules for guidance of those responsible for the future welfare and prosperity of the nation.

According to Mr. St. Loe Strachey, working men and women waste two and a half millions annually on patent medicines, a sum which would, he said, provide 40,000 beds in first-class hospitals. We imagine the medicine is bought in the hope of escaping the hospital bed!

Dr. Boyd Carpenter announced that a great admirer of Florence Nightingale was prepared to put £300 at the disposal of the League if they could devise some scheme which would promote health visiting throughout the country, especially in one of the divisions of Buckinghamshire, where Florence Nightingale's memory was so highly cherished.

Great preparations are being made at the Royal Infirmary, Bristol, to give the King and Queen a right royal welcome on the 28th inst., when they are to open the King Edward Memorial, a fine new block attached to the institution.

The Chelsea Hospital for Women has received donations of £100 towards its Rebuilding Fund from Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Donkin.

A Linen League has been organised by the Ladies' Committee of the Royal Infirmary, Bradford, for supplying bed linen, blankets, quilts, &c., for use in the Infirmary. It has only been in existence for three months, and the linen collected in that time was recently on view in the Board Room of the Infirmary.

Five hundred and sixty articles were sent in, and these included 132 sheets, 86 draw sheets, 112 pillow-cases, 56 blankets and other useful things. This result is a very satisfactory one, and the Ladies' Committee have reason to be proud of the success that has attended their efforts to benefit the Institution.

In addition to the League, the Ladies' Committee provide bed garments for the use of the patients during their stay in the wards, and at

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)