

## REFLECTIONS

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

An analysis of the finances of London hospitals by the County Council reveals some remarkable facts, says the *Standard*.

There are 88 hospitals.  
 Their total income is £1,244,527.  
 They pay annually in rates £45,000.  
 Maintenance costs £932,684.  
 Administration costs £73,830.  
 Beds available are 10,550.  
 Daily number of in-patients 9,000.  
 Out-patients attended yearly 5,000,000.  
 New out-patients yearly 1,500,000.

The following are figures for the cost of in-patients per head per week in certain hospitals:—

	£	s.	d.
St. George's .. .. .	2	2	11
Charing Cross .. .. .	1	18	8
Guy's .. .. .	1	19	8
King's College .. .. .	1	16	8
London .. .. .	1	19	2
St. Thomas .. .. .	1	19	5
Westminster .. .. .	1	16	0
Anti-Vivisection Hospital, Battersea .. .. .	2	9	7
Great Northern Central .. .. .	2	0	6
London Homœopathic .. .. .	2	7	3
Belgrave (Children's) .. .. .	2	2	10
Florence Nightingale .. .. .	2	12	2
Soho .. .. .	3	2	8
City of London (Lying-in) .. .. .	2	6	11
Golden Square .. .. .	2	1	6
Cancer, Brompton .. .. .	3	1	0
London Fever, Islington .. .. .	3	19	11

A course of lectures and demonstrations arranged by the Child Study Society will be held during February, March, April, and May at the house of the Royal Sanitary Institute, 90, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W. The first lecture was given on Thursday, February 13th, by Dr. James Kerr, on "Brain Mechanisms and Handwriting." Lectures will follow in due course on "The Development of the Child's Brain," "The Teaching of Sexual Hygiene," "Child Study and the National Health," "The Backward Child in the Ordinary School," and "Discussion on the Parent and the Adolescent."

Miss Theresa Jane Wheler, of Westbourne Gardens, Bayswater, W., has bequeathed £1,000 to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, "for prosecutions in all cases of cruelty to cats."

Mr. McKenna stated in the House last month that he was "ready to receive suggestions as to the prescription of practicable standards and tests" for flannelettes, claimed to be safe from fire, with a view to the introduction of legislation on the matter.

We understand that alternative proposals, both with regard to a Bill and to the tests which would be necessary, have already been submitted to Mr. McKenna by the National League for Physical Education and Improvement, the influential organisation which for the last two years has carried on a vigorous campaign against the use of dangerous makes of flannelette for articles of clothing. The Bill suggested is a short, simple one, based on the Rag Flock Act, 1911, and covers a wide variety of misdescription as to the non-inflammability of flannelette or other textile fabrics.

## NURSES' SOCIAL UNION.

The third lecture of this session will be given by Dr. Steegmann, on Tuesday, February 18th, at 3.15, in the Institute of Hygiene, Devonshire Street. The subject is "Tuberculosis." Admission free to members. Nurses not members, 6d.; others, 1s.

## HOSPITAL CARS.

The Swiss Federal Railways have added to their equipment several hospital cars, which are intended for conveyance of sick and invalid travellers. The cars are placed at the service of private parties, and being intended especially for long journeys, they are fitted out with all the technical equipment to adapt them for travel over the various European railway systems. Not only is the car fitted to travel on all standard-gauge railway lines of the Continent, but it is designed also for transfer on the Scandinavian and Sicilian ferry-boats.

The car is heated by steam. A hot air installation serves to heat up the car when installed or before starting or when travelling on lines not equipped with steam heating. All the compartments of the car are electrically lighted. The dynamo, driven through belt transmission from one of the car axles, also supplies electrical energy for various apparatus with which the car is equipped.

The sick room, which is located on the middle of the carriage, and the adjoining lavatory, are fitted up aseptically in the same manner as up-to-date hospital rooms, all the walls, ceiling and floors, as well as the furniture, being readily washed and disinfected, while all the angles of the walls and ceiling are rounded off and any joints covered over with smooth nickel-plated metal. The floors are lined with inlaid linoleum.

The sick room contains a good bed with iron frame and steel mattress and a removable lifting device. The horsehair mattresses are made in three parts to facilitate disinfection; a chest of drawers fitted into the wall contains several changes of bed-linen. The sick room further contains a bed-table with adjustable plate and iron cabinet with marble plate and enamelled

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