

REFLECTIONS

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

The Local Government Board have issued a special report upon venereal diseases by Dr. R. W. Johnstone, one of the Board's Medical Inspectors. The report shows that a complete notification of still births, followed by medical inquiry into their causes, would lead to the discovery of a large amount of hitherto undetected syphilis, and thus enable a great mass of disease to be treated and its transmission prevented. Dr. Johnstone also shows that the available hospital accommodation is quite inadequate for what ought to be the demands upon it. He points out that "it is not only in their own generation that sufferers are a danger; they can transmit the disease to their children, and do so to an extent known only to those whose work brings them into contact with our workhouses and asylums."

Owing to the departure of King's College Hospital and the British Lying-In Hospital, the maternity district of the Charing Cross Hospital will, in future, extend as far East as Farringdon Street and as far North as Holborn.

The Council of the Royal Institute of Public Health have appointed Professor Edward William Hope, Professor of Public Health in the University of Liverpool, Medical Officer of Health for the City and Port of Liverpool, and President of the Society of Medical Officers of Health, to be honorary secretary to the Institute.

The Duke of Wellington has expressed his willingness to join the Hampshire County Fund Committee (of which the Earl of Selborne is Chairman), formed to assist in establishing Queen Alexandra's Nurses' Home at the Alton Cripples' Hospital, and has subscribed £50.

The Open-air School has proved of so great benefit to delicate children that common-sense indicates its adoption for normal ones also. The West Riding County Council are now building at Highfield, near Doncaster, the first of a new type designed by the Council's architect to supersede the present type of school building. The classrooms are so planned that two sides can be thrown open and the children work practically in the open air.

The following Board has been appointed to administer the Highlands and Islands (Medical Services) Act:—

Sir John Dewar, *Chairman*; Sir Donald MacAlister, Principal of the University of Glasgow; Lady Susan Gilmour, hon. secretary of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses; Dr. McVail, of the Scottish Insurance Commission; Dr. Leslie Mackenzie, of the Local Government Board; Dr. John Macpherson, of the Lunacy Board; Mr. J. L. Robertson, Chief Inspector under the Scottish Education Department.

A UNIQUE DISTINCTION.

Messrs. Burroughs Wellcome & Co. have secured unique distinction in connection with their exhibit at the recent International Congress of Medicine, in London. In two of the sections the highest possible award has been conferred upon them by the International Jury. The two Grand Prizes referred to are awarded for products exhibited in Section 2 and Section 5 respectively. Section No. 2 included pharmaceutical preparations, fine chemicals and antiseptics; and Section No. 5 related to serum therapy, organo therapy, and bacteriology. Those who had the pleasure of seeing the firm's most interesting exhibit in the large Vestibule at the Imperial Institute, and who are acquainted by practical experience with the fine quality of its pharmaceutical and other preparations will endorse the judgment of the International jury, and congratulate the firm on a well earned honour.

Some of the exhibits in Section No. 2 were specially interesting as being the outcome of the chemical research work undertaken by the firm. Of these "Nizin" a zinc salt of sulphanilic acid, and "Soamin," one of the arylarsonates, were examples.

The "Wellcome" Sera, Vaccines and Tuberculins shown in Section No. 5 of the exhibit included the Concentrated Diphtheria Antitoxin "Wellcome," and the Tuberculin (W.)

The remaining portion of the exhibit was rendered extremely attractive by the fine collection of medicinal plants and herbs. They were specimens from the "Wellcome" Materia Medica Farm at Dartford.

Messrs. A. Wulff & Co. were awarded the Grand Prix for their well-known tonic-food, Sanatogen, at the same exhibition. It must be very gratifying to the makers that an international jury of leading medical men should have singled out this preparation for the highest possible award—a proof of the estimation in which it is held by the medical profession.

THE ROYAL SANITARY INSTITUTE.

A course of lectures designed to assist Women Health Visitors and School Nurses entering for its examination in School Hygiene, including Elementary Physiology, will be held at the Royal Sanitary Institute, 90, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W., beginning on October 6th, 1913, at 7 p.m. The course will consist of lectures and practical demonstrations. A fee of £1 is charged for the course, and an examination will be held at its close. The certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute is recognised by the Local Government Board as one of the qualifications for the appointment of Health Visitor, and by the Education Committee of the London County Council for certain purposes.

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