

consequently abandoned the former material and now only employs silk, which has been made antiseptic by dipping it in an alcoholic solution of bichloride of mercury, and since adopting this method he has obtained primary union of his wounds in every case. The matter is very important, because, as is well known, many English surgeons have arrived at the same conclusion, and have nearly or quite discarded the use of silkworm or catgut, believing that comparatively better results are obtained by the use of china silk sterilised either by boiling or by immersion in some antiseptic solution.

INTUBATION.

THIS is a comparatively modern method of treating cases in which suffocation is impending from chronic or acute closure of the larynx. It has of course been suggested instead of the more ordinary operation of tracheotomy, and has hitherto been a somewhat difficult and complicated performance, consisting in the passing of a steel tube through the mouth and down the larynx. A more simple method has, however, been recently proposed by a well-known surgeon in New York, which appears to have decided advantages both in the greater simplicity of the apparatus employed, and the greater dependence which is placed upon the surgeon's tactile dexterity. The head of the tube has a wire rim through which a string passes, the introducer is a metallic ring which closely fits the index finger, and has beneath it an obturator of flexible steel attached by a spring catch. By passing the string to the right of the index finger, and over the dorsum, and holding it between the third and fourth fingers and the palm, the tube is kept attached to the obturator; the tube is then passed by the finger over the epiglottis and down the larynx, and when it is in position, it is left there by releasing the string and lifting out the obturator. Retraction is managed by means of a finger ring to which a small hook is attached. The difficulties of intubation, however, are so great that the method can never become a widely employed method. There is, of course, not only the constant irritation set up by the pressure of the tube in the sensitive larynx, but there is also a great tendency for food to pass down the tube into the trachea instead of down the œsophagus.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE Poplar Hospital for Accidents has thrown open its wards on two days of this week, and has issued a general invitation to the public to inspect its wards, a permission of which a great many people availed themselves. The public has so little idea of the workings of a Hospital that it is an admirable plan to invite them to visit our Hospitals and see for themselves how much is done to alleviate the sufferings of the sick poor. A first visit to a Hospital is calculated to open the purse strings of even the most avaricious.

By the way, talking of the Poplar Hospital for Accidents, Mr. Sidney Holland has been writing to the papers that "during the polling in the working man constituencies of Poplar, Bow, and Bromley, every preparation for emergencies was made by the surgeons on the staff, and although vast and excited crowds assembled till late at night to hear the declaration of the polls, only two cases arising from drunkenness or drunken violence were brought in."

Jumble Sales will be held during August in Aid of the Plaistow Maternity Charity and Nurses' Home. Contributions from lumber closets, chintz boxes, kitchens, or wardrobes, will be welcomed and collected on notice to Miss Broadwood, Affiliated Benefit Nursing Association. Office, 12, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.

A great deal of interesting work from the sanitary and hygienic point of view has been got through by the newly constituted Society of Sanitary Engineers and Architects of France, at the recent Congress held at the International Exhibition of Hygiene in Paris. Opinion was unanimous that the technical schools of sanitary plumbing established in Paris, should be encouraged in every possible way, and that a diploma of capacity should be given to the students only after examinations following on three years' training. Resolutions were adopted of establishing baths in all schools, and the disposal of domestic refuse, systems of drainage, and methods of ventilation, &c., were thoroughly gone into.

In aid of the funds of the Surrey Association for the General Welfare of the Blind and the Royal Hospital for Children and Women, Waterloo Road, the twelfth annual demonstration and parade of the South London Amalgamated Friendly, Trade, and Benefit Societies was held last week. Although the weather was unfavourable, a satisfactory collection for the two institutions was made.

At a meeting of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, held in Spring Gardens on Saturday, it was agreed that application should be made to the Local Government Board for an order authorising the expenditure of £237,909 upon the erection, &c., of Park Hill Hospital, to be repaid by loan; also that the London County Council should be applied to for loans amounting to £104,131 for the erection of pavilions at the Northern and North-Western Hospitals, and alterations and additions at the North-Western Hospital.

Dr. J. T. Reece, a medical practitioner at Ystradgynlas, Breconshire, was on Sunday morning struck dead by lightning. He was called upon to attend a case of burning in a neighbouring village, and as he reached the top of a hill a thunderstorm came on. Subsequently Dr. Reece and the horse he rode were discovered lying dead on the summit of the hill by the parent of the patient whom he was about to attend.

previous page

next page