

Of 1,025 deaths, 595 occurred at ages under 20 years; 152 were of the age 20-40; 120 were 40-60; 123 were 60-80; and 27 were of the age of 80 years and upwards. Two old widows, one of 95, the other of 96 years, died in Hackney.

Of the 152 deaths at the age 20-40, sixty-six were referred to consumption (phthisis), 5 to diseases of the respiratory organs; in the aggregate 224 deaths in the week were referred to these causes.

Diarrhoea is the prevailing disease of the week; it killed 125 persons; namely, 94 poor infants under a year old, 17 children of the age 1-2, and 2 of the age 2-3, and 3 of the age 5-10; 9 adults of the age of 20 and upwards. 89 of the deaths were on the north, 36 on the south side of the Thames. To cholera 16 deaths are referred; 12 children under 5 years of age died of this disease, the rest were adults.

The cleansing operations in the streets and houses should proceed at the same accelerated rate as putrefaction, in this hot weather. When diarrhoea comes on it requires immediate attention.

Medical informants are requested to state in all cases the precise time that intervenes between the stage of diarrhoea and collapse in cholera cases.

During the week the births of 869 boys and 870 girls, in all 1,739 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1846-55 the average number was 1,431.

The wind blew generally from the south-west and south-east during the week; which opened in clouds and rain, but became bright and cloudless on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Electricity was positive and generally of moderate tension. The barometer was 30.006 inches on an average, and did not fluctuate to any extent. The heat was excessive for this climate; the mean highest day temperature was 82.4 deg., the maximum was nearly 90 deg. (89.8 deg.) in the shade on Saturday; the mean lowest night temperature was 56.1 deg.; and the mean temperature of the week was 67.0 deg., or 5.4 deg. above the average. The highest temperature in the sun rose progressively from 95.4 deg. on Sunday to 111.0 deg. on Saturday. The mean temperature of the Thames at Greenwich was 68.5 deg. The air was excessively dry during the sunlight of the last three days; and dew could only have been deposited on Thursday in the day time by a fall of 25.4 deg. of temperature; at night the air was nearly saturated.

**QUACKERY IN AMERICA.** The following remarks occur in an address on the "Medical Schools and the Medical Profession in the United States of America", by Dr. F. C. Stewart, of New York, published in the *Edinburgh Medical Journal* for August 1856:

"Quackery exists to a very great extent in the United States, particularly in and about populous districts, and is a source of great annoyance and incalculable injury to us; but, thank heaven, it has not extended into high places in the profession. Our teachers and eminent practitioners are everywhere thoroughly orthodox.

"The field, however, is so large, and the opportunities, owing to the varied character of the population, so inviting, that hundreds of adventurers find it to their interest to play upon the credulity of their fellow-men; hence, every means is devised, too often with success, to entrap the unwary.

"Each variety of charlatanry has its disciples and advocates, including the lowest order of Indian Herb Doctors, Thompsonians, Homœopaths, Cronothermalists, Patent Pill Vendors, Hydropaths, Clairvoyants, Magnetizers, Consumption Curers, Spiritual Agents, and all that are elsewhere known, with perhaps some heard of nowhere else.

"By far the most dangerous supporters of quackery with us are undoubtedly the clergy, for their influence over their flocks is always very great, and their assertions are regarded with especial favour; hence every means is resorted to for obtaining clerical endorsements of new systems of treatment and of new medicines. This is, I find, the case in Edinburgh likewise; for I notice one advertisement, at least, containing the certificates of no less than five of your ministers in favour of a 'specific liniment'. In America, these testimonials are given only by the lowest and most ignorant preachers; among the higher and educated ones, we find everywhere in our land that a close sympathy exists with our profession; and I could adduce hundreds of extracts from their published sermons and addresses in proof of the assertion. I trust that these remarks may apply with equal force to the accomplished and eloquent divines of this country; and that with you also those who stoop

to become even unwittingly the partisans of deception, and lend the powerful influence of their holy offices to promote and sanction imposture, are only to be found among the weak-minded and unreflecting.

"You would be surprised if I were to give you the pecuniary results of the speculations of some of the charlatans and patent medicine venders of New York city alone. Immense fortunes are frequently made by them; and you may form some estimate of their success when I tell you that one of them is able to keep a steam press constantly employed throughout the year in printing circulars and pamphlets for gratuitous distribution; while others, I am assured on reliable authority, expend more than fifty thousand dollars annually in advertising. A particular class, known as 'consumption curers', has of late years made great progress, and some of them have realised almost fabulous fortunes."

**ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.** At the annual meeting (which was numerously attended) of the Association of Medical Officers of Asylums and Hospitals for the Insane, held on the 1st of August, at the County Lunatic Asylum, Derby (Dr. Hitchman, President, in the chair), Dr. Forbes Winslow, D.C.L., was unanimously elected President for the ensuing year. Sir B. C. Brodie, Bart., D.C.L., and Sir H. Holland, Bart., M.D., D.C.L., were elected honorary members.

**TESTIMONIAL TO C. W. WOOD, ESQ.** Our readers will remember that a Report, by Dr. Barclay of Leicester, on the contagious fever which has been raging at Woodhouse Eaves, in the Quorn district of the Barrow-on-Soar Union, was published in the *ASSOCIATION JOURNAL* for June 21 (p. 516). It is gratifying to state that the inhabitants have felt such a sense of the zeal, diligence, and kindness, displayed by Mr. C. W. Wood, the medical officer, and Mr. Stubbs, the overseer, as to present to each of those gentlemen proofs of their regard. At a meeting of the Sanitary Committee, Mr. Wood was presented by the Rev. T. S. Mellington, the Chairman, with a pocket-book, having the following inscription:—"Presented to Charles Walker Wood, Esq., M.R.C.S., L.S.A., by the inhabitants of Woodhouse Eaves and its vicinity, in acknowledgement of his attention to the poor of that village, during the visitation of fever. A.D. 1856." The pocket-book contained the sum of £37:15:6. At the same time, a purse containing nineteen sovereigns was presented to the overseer. The readiness with which all classes of the inhabitants subscribed, is a satisfactory proof that the generally unrequited labours of the ill-paid "Union Doctor" are sometimes, though rarely, appreciated. One gentleman, Mr. S. W. Clowes, some weeks before the general subscription was set on foot, presented Mr. Wood with a pony, valued at twenty guineas, in recognition of his kindness to the poor.

**PUBLIC HEALTH ACT.** A return moved for by Mr. Cowper, M.P., the President of the Board of Health, shows that, between the 18th of April and the 30th of June, in this present year (1856), the Public Health Act of 1848 has been applied to seven towns—viz., Smethwick, West Ham, Moss-side, Waterloo-cum-Seaforth (Great Crosby and Litherland), Sowerby Bridge (Warley), Rusholme, and Bishop Auckland. Forty-nine applications have been received for the sanction of the General Board of Health to the mortgage of rates for public works, and the amount of loans so sanctioned, up to the 30th of June, was £310,948, making, together with the amounts sanctioned in 1854 and 1855, a grand total of £1,374,771. The number of inspectors' reports to the Board of Health on the examination of plans and inquiries, etc., under the act, between the 1st of January, 1854, and the 1st of July, 1856, amounted to 376.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

LETTERS and other COMMUNICATIONS for the JOURNAL should be directed to the private address of the Editor, 39, Curzon Street, May Fair.

TO CONTRIBUTORS. The Editor would feel glad if Members of the Association and others, would cooperate with him in establishing as a rule, that in future no paper for publication shall exceed two pages of the Journal in length. If the writers of long communications knew as well as the Editor does, that lengthy papers always deter the reader from commencing them, this great evil would never arise. Brevity is the soul of medical writing—still more than of wit.

Communications have been received from:—DR. T. MOFFAT; DR. S. B. BIRCH; THE HON. SECRETARIES OF THE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SOCIETY; MR. STONE; DR. KIDD; DR. P. H. WILLIAMS; MR. FRANK RUMP; MR. OLIVER PEMBERTON; MR. GEORGE MOIR; MR. SAMUEL WRIGHT; SIR CHARLES HASTINGS; MR. J. C. BLOXAM; DR. J. JOHNSTONE; MR. JOSEPH WHITE; MR. HENRY W. T. ELLIS; DR. F. J. BROWN; DR. JOHN DAN BROWN; MR. GEORGE ALLARTON; MR. GEORGE JONES; MR. PIERRE CHAVASSE; MR. NEWHAM; MR. W. W. MORGAN; and MR. JOSEPH HINTON.