

These diseases are natural to man, but their ravages are greatly aggravated by the physical impurities of the atmosphere seen from a distance hanging in a cloud over London.

The smoke of our manufactories has been rendered less dense than it was, by Lord Palmerston's Act. It will ascend as dark as ever in winter from the fires of 340,000 houses; but Dr. Arnott has shown that the evil may be greatly diminished, and by the mere modification of lighting the fire from the top much of the smoke is burnt.

The dust of the principal streets, which are now covered with horse dung, watered every day, and beat up by omnibuses, may be got rid of by frequent cleansing and by new processes. The railways which traverse the southern, the eastern, and the northern parts of London would, if extended to the centre and the west, not only relieve the thickest thoroughfares, but facilitate the movements and the traffic of the population, dwelling in houses which it was computed at the last census could be all visited by going over something more than 0.563 miles of ground.

The third class of atmospheric impurities is invisible, but it arises from the long retention of the excrement of London under the houses and in the sewers. According to the estimate of Mr. Lawes, London could supply the *farmers of England* daily with 20 tons of ammonia, 51 tons of carbon, 14 tons of phosphates, 32 tons of mineral matter, and 14 tons of other matter, making in the aggregate 140 tons of dry manure, dissolved naturally in about nineteen times its weight of water. The country requires this precious manure, which London is anxious to get rid of at any reasonable cost, as it is now known to be as insalubrious as it is offensive.

The problem for the engineer to solve is, How can 3,000 tons of *town guano* be returned daily to the disinfecting soil, from which it was chiefly taken, with the least offence to health, and with the least cost? Shall it be distributed by pipes, or by railways? Shall it be disinfected by water, earth, ashes, or any chemical compound?

Under the present arrangements some hundreds of thousands of tons of this matter lie in store in London, putrefying in cess-pools and percolating the streets, while the residue is thrown into the Thames at great cost.

All these impurities of the air we breathe in London have evidently a natural tendency to increase more rapidly than the population, and can only be removed by the vigilance, intelligence, and energy of the Boards of Works.

Every substantial sanitary improvement they effect, will be as evident as the diminution in the mortality of the districts which now receive a purer water, and which will, it may be expected, ere long receive it on the system of constant supply.

During the week the births of 793 boys and 782 girls, in all 1,575 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1846-55 the average number was 1,427.

The meteorology of the week underwent great changes. The barometer stood at 29.763 in. on an average. The mean temperature of the air was 66.9 deg. during the week; it was 69.3 deg. on Sunday, 71.1 deg. on Monday, and fell gradually to 62.5 on Saturday. The highest temperature of the air in the shade rose to 87.0 deg. on Monday. The lowest temperature of the air, 48.5 deg., was observed on Saturday night. The thermometer in the sun rose every day to 100 deg. and upwards, attaining 105.5 deg. on Wednesday. The temperature of the Thames was 70.4 deg. The dryness of the air was indicated by the 0.1 deg. of difference between the temperature of the wet and dry bulb thermometers. The wind was S.W., and moved at the mean rate of 90 miles a day over Greenwich. Nearly half an inch (0.4) of rain fell on Thursday; and rain fell also on Monday and Saturday in gentle showers. The electricity was positive during the week.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, BIRMINGHAM. Miss Burdett Coutts has presented the munificent donation of £600 towards the new buildings for the Museums of Human and Comparative Anatomy and Natural History.

LECTURES ON MILITARY SURGERY. Mr. G. E. Blenkins, who is well known from his connexion with the Grosvenor Place School of Anatomy and Medicine, as a teacher of anatomy, is about to deliver a course of lectures on Military Surgery at that school. Few men went out to the Crimea better prepared to profit by the experience of the war; and hence the announcement of a course of lectures on Military Surgery by so able a surgeon is a circumstance of much interest.

PROFESSOR SANDE COX has been elected a Corresponding Member of the Société de Chirurgie de Paris; and a report on his memoir *On Amputation at the Hip-Joint*, by Baron Larrey, has been ordered to be published in the Transactions of that body.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

Members should remember that corrections for the current week's JOURNAL should not arrive later than Wednesday.

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.

LONDON HOSPITALS. The largest number of operations are at St. Bartholomew's and Guy's Hospitals. At these Institutions, there are numerous operations for Hernia, Ligature of Arteries, reduction of Dislocations, etc., every day; but the specific operating day at St. Bartholomew's, as well as at St. Thomas's, is Saturday. The operating day at Guy's Hospital, is Tuesday. The Hospitals which rank next to these in the number and variety of operations are, University College Hospital, on Wednesdays; St. George's, and the London Hospital, on Thursdays; the Ophthalmic, on Fridays; King's College, and Charing Cross Hospitals, on Saturdays; as well as the Middlesex, St. Mary's, and the Westminster Hospitals, on days best learned at these Institutions. Two days—Mondays and Fridays, it will be perceived, are unoccupied; Tuesdays and Saturdays, in common parlance, are "field days" with the students.

Communications have been received from:—MR. W. B. KESTEVEN; MR. J. Z. LAURENCE; DR. KIDD; THE HON. SECRETARIES OF THE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SOCIETY; MR. WESTALL (Croydon); MR. T. TROUSDALE; DR. W. JENNER; DR. ROUTH; DR. C. H. JONES; MR. E. WILSON; DR. DAVEY; DR. T. MOFFAT; MR. D. R. McNAR; MR. JOHN MARTIN; MR. OLIVER PEMBERTON; MR. G. MACILWAIN; A LOCAL SECRETARY; MR. T. HOLMES; DR. LANKESTER; DR. W. BUDD; MR. BOOTH EDDISON; DR. C. M. BURNETT; and DR. W. P. BROOKES.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

[* An Asterisk is prefixed to the names of Members of the Association.]

1. On the Nature and Treatment of Club-Foot, and Analogous Distortions. By Bernard E. Brodhurst. London: John Churchill. pp. 131.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Williams and Son's Pure Glycerine
SOAP.—Messrs. JOHN WILLIAMS and SON'S Pure Glycerine Soap has been analysed by two of the most able Chemists of London, and is strongly recommended by several eminent men in the Medical Profession. It is suited to the most delicate skin (whether arising from disease or otherwise), and is the only kind fit for nursery use. May be had of all respectable Chemists, Perfumers, etc.

SOAP WORKS, CLERKENWELL, LONDON.

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Pure Manzanilla Sherry, 48s. per
dozen. Amantillado, from 54s. Jerez Viejo Aromatico, 84s. Bordeaux premier, 48s. JAMES MARKWELL, Sen., since May 1840 specially appointed Wine Merchant to Her Majesty and the Imperial Embassies. Offices, 35 to 40, Albemarle Street, and 4, Stafford Street, Piccadilly. N.B. Several dozen in Stock of the famous Old Wines accumulated by J. M. during his lengthened proprietorship of Ibbotson's, Long's, the London and the Grafton Hotels. Good and pure Wines are not cheap. Stock, 5,500 dozen.

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PATENT SPONGIO PILINE. The advantages are cleanliness, absence of offensive smell, economy, retention of moisture, lightness and easy application. Markwick's 2s. 6d. Respirators, Cholera Belts, Chest Protectors, Piline for Rheumatism, and Shoe Socks, are strongly recommended. Sold, Retail by Chemists and Druggists, and Wholesale only by GEO. TRIMBEY, 4, Queen Street, Cheapside.

Vichy Water.—W. Best, having
made arrangements with the Vichy Water Company of France, can now offer it at the reduced price of 12s. per dozen, in the new glass bottles, comprising the following sources, Célestins, Hôpital, Grand Grille, Haute-rive, Dames, and Lady Célestins, also the Vichy salts and pastils, at his old-established eau de Cologne, arquebuzade, and foreign mineral water depot, 22B, Henrietta Street, Cavendish Square. Agent for Dr. Struve's Brighton Mineral Waters.